To learn more about sustainable buildings, visit usgbc.org.

To learn more about campus sustainability, visit sustainability.csbsju.edu.

McKeown Center: a Sustainable Building

Self-Guided Tour

Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

"LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO_2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts."

History

Dedicated on September 12, 2009, the McKeown Center was designed with sustainability and community in mind. The community center is used for studying, communal meals, dances, movies, meetings, and other gatherings. The building is named after Tom McKeown, former director of university relations.

Dedication celebration

Site Selection

Careful attention was given to maximize open space, limit impervious cover, and soil erosion during construction. Access to alternative transportation is available at the Flynntown bus stop.

Features

Permeable pavers

Water Quality and Quantity Control

Permeable pavers that replaced the parking lot and a rain garden at the north side of the building decrease the quantity of storm water and increase its quality.

High-efficiency washers and dryers

Water Use Reduction

Water-saving measures such as the installation of high-efficiency washers and ⅛-gallon-per-flush urinals reduce water usage by 30%.

Exterior light

Light Pollution Reduction

Poor outdoor lighting systems affect nocturnal ecosystems and limit the observation of the night sky. The outdoor lights on and around the building reduce light pollution.

Double-pane windows

Optimized Energy Performance

An improved thermal envelope, upgraded windows, reduced lighting power density, occupancy sensors, daylight sensors, an air-cooled high-efficiency chiller, and condensing boiler all save energy.

Recyclable asphalt

Construction Waste Management

By collecting cardboard, clean wood, concrete, metals, gypsum, paper, aluminum, and plastic, 95% of construction waste from the project was diverted from the landfill.

Locally-produced natural materials

Regional Materials

25% of the materials used were manufactured and/or extracted from within a 500-mile radius of the site.

Day-lit common space

Daylighting and Views

The design provided windows to allow for 77% of regularly occupied spaces to be illuminated by daylight.

Energy dashboard

Energy Monitoring

The building is monitored in real time, and the data is used by SJU Physical Plant workers—to adjust the building's performance—and by students, who will be modeling the building in comparison to other campus structures.