Sustainable Building

The University of Alabama is conscientious of the environment and what it takes to sustain it. By reusing rather than replacing them, The University of Alabama respects and honors its historical buildings. It is expected that designers who perform work on The University of Alabama campus will do what they can to design sustainable buildings.

Addressed below is what the Construction Administration Department has done, is doing, and plans to do to promote sustainability. For additional information about what the campus is doing regarding sustainability, go to http://sustainability.ua.edu/. The information will be organized in the environmental categories set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). They are: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality.

Sustainable Sites

1. The University’s master plan has been moving to a pedestrian campus.
2. New parking decks have been constructed and new ones are currently being planned.
3. To facilitate bicycle traffic around campus, new bicycle paths have been constructed.
4. Trees are protected and important to everyone on campus.
5. Site selection and development is performed in a way to preserve the resources that we have.

Water Efficiency

1. All new buildings have irrigated landscaping installed as part of the building project. We strive to provide full coverage without overwatering.
2. To conserve water on all construction projects we use low flow urinals. These urinals use ½ gallon per flush as compared to standard ones that use 1.5 gallons per flush.

Energy and Atmosphere

2. Even prior to the code requirement of commissioning, The University was at the forefront in commissioning and retro-commissioning buildings.
3. The University has been phasing out ozone depleting refrigerants by actively replacing equipment with more energy efficient equipment and more environmentally friendly refrigerants.
4. When equipment is services or removed from service the refrigerants are reclaimed, cleaned and reused.
5. In 2003, the University completed a lighting retrofit, which saves 21 million kilowatt hours per year and translates into a yearly reduction of 39 tons of NOX and 117 tons of SO2. Since that retrofit, task lighting is the only use for incandescent lighting on campus. The University uses occupancy driven lighting controls in all its construction.

Materials and Resources

1. The University reuses building materials from buildings being demolished. Examples are brick, slate, and large HVAC and electrical equipment.
2. The University recycles aluminum cans, office paper, newspaper, and cardboard. For more information on recycling, go to http://sustainability.ua.edu/.
3. All new buildings are required to have storage and collection points for recycling.
4. The Designer is encouraged to specify products that meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Standards. Information on these products is to be submitted to the University’s Facilities Planning Department for review and approval prior to being specified.
Indoor Environmental Quality

1. To improve the indoor air quality, The University does not allow smoking in any of its buildings or within thirty feet of an entrance.
2. During building construction, all return and outside air openings are covered with MERV 6 filters to prevent construction dust from getting into the ductwork.
3. All new construction and remodeling projects meet current ASHRAE ventilation requirements.

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