LEED® GOLD CERTIFIED GREEN BUILDING PROJECT PROFILE

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HEALTH CAREERS AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING
EASTERN CAMPUS, HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO

Achievements of project design & construction:

44% reduction in domestic water usage
34% energy cost savings
50% reduction in landscape watering
96% construction waste diverted from landfill
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PROJECT BACKGROUND
Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) collaborated with URS Corporation on the design of the new Health Careers and Technology (HCT) building on Tri-C’s Eastern Campus. The 61,500 square foot building had a site and building construction cost of $14,400,000 and allowed health careers classes to be consolidated into a single building that also includes biology labs and classrooms. The HCT building was certified at the Gold level under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) program. The HCT building is energy efficient, takes advantage of daylight, reduces storm water run-off, has native and drought resistant landscaping, is frugal with water resources, provides a healthy indoor environment, and enhances the academic experience.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS
The U.S. Green Building Council implemented the LEED program to encourage owners and professionals to design, build, and operate more environmentally appropriate buildings. The list below details design and construction elements of the HCT and indicates the number of points received out of the total credits possible within each of LEED’s six available categories.

Sustainable Site Features 11 points out of 14 possible
• Constructed on a former brownfield site.
• Close proximity to mass transit.
• Rain gardens, permeable pavers, and a partial green roof to help retain and filter storm water and reduce run-off quantity.

Water Efficiency 4 points out of 5 possible
• 50% reduction in landscape watering.
• Rainwater collection cistern eliminates the need for potable water for irrigation.
• High-efficiency plumbing fixtures reduce potable water consumption by 44%.

Energy and Atmosphere 7 points out of 17 possible
• 34% savings in utilities, reducing annual costs by $18,000.
• Building orientation and windows take advantage of natural light.
• Occupancy sensors turn lights off when spaces are unoccupied.

Materials and Resources 7 points out of 13 possible
• Use of materials from regional sources or made using recycled content reduced transportation costs, emissions, and kept money in the local economy.
• 96% of construction waste diverted from landfills.

Indoor Environmental Quality 10 points out of 15 possible
• HVAC system kept clean during construction, and permeable materials were protected from moisture exposure.
• Extensive use of low-volatile organic compound (VOC) emitting building materials.

Innovation and Design Process 5 points out of 5 possible
• Innovation points for exemplary performances in reduction of potable water use, construction waste diversion, and maximizing open space on the site.
• Additional points received for education through building signage and from members of the project team being LEED Accredited Professionals.

Tri-C recognizes that its commitment to education and community includes a sense of responsibility to our environment. Tri-C will lead by example, investigating, developing, and promoting sustainable policies, practices, and curricula, with the goal of achieving sustainability throughout the College. The College also aspires to instill in our students, faculty, and staff a sense of stewardship toward the environment by giving them the information and support to continue sustainability efforts beyond the campus environment. We must strive to prepare our students, faculty, and staff to be leaders in creating and promoting a culture of diversity, sustainability, and environmental sensitivity through our community.

Sustainability at Tri-C means achieving the College’s educational and community missions with a sense of responsibility for preserving the environment, promoting the economy, and improving society as a whole.