



The
UNIVERSITY
of **VERMONT**

Policy V. 4.5.1.2
Responsible Official: Vice
President for Finance and
Administration
Effective Date: January 2, 2008

Environmental Design in New and Renovated Buildings

Policy Statement

This policy defines the University of Vermont commitment to a high level of environmental sustainability in all new buildings and in major renovations to existing buildings. At minimum, the University will achieve a score equivalent to LEEDTM “Silver;” and will formally commission buildings, in accordance to LEED requirements.

Reason for the Policy

This policy supports the University’s emphases on environment and health in teaching, research, outreach, and campus operations, and the University’s special role as the flagship institution of higher education in Vermont. The goal of this policy is to bring new and renovated University buildings to the forefront of environmentally sustainable design, construction, and operation, thereby supporting positive impacts on natural resources, enhancing occupant health and productivity.

Strategic Direction

This policy supports the following goal in the University’s Strategic Plan
http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=strategic_planning/strategicplan.html :

- Strengthen and focus academic programs, emphasizing liberal education, health and the environment.
- Focus the human, fiscal, environmental, technological and physical resources of the University on institutional values and priorities.
- Recruit and retain excellent students, faculty and staff.
- Strengthen financial resources.

Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies to construction of all new buildings and major renovations.

Policy Elaboration

This policy requires that environmental objectives, with accompanying metrics, be developed specific to each new building and major renovation. At a minimum, environmental objectives will include achieving a level equivalent to LEEDTM “Silver” and formal building commissioning, in accordance to LEED requirements.

Definitions

Formal Building Commissioning: refers to LEEDTM Energy Credit 3: Additional Commissioning intended to verify and ensure that the entire building is designed, constructed, and calibrated to operate as intended.

LEEDTM: refers to the current version of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDTM) Rating System developed by the US Green Building Council. LEEDTM includes criteria related to Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Innovation and Design Process. Version 2.1 and Version 2.2 include 69 possible points, with prerequisites and four levels of certification: Certified 26-32 points; Silver 33-38 points; Gold 39-51 points; Platinum 52-69 points.

Procedures

The University will develop environmental design objectives for each new building and major renovation. At a minimum these objectives will include the following:

1. Use of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDTM) rating system
The University will design and build all new buildings and major renovations to a minimum standard equivalent to a “Silver” rating by the US Green Building Council in their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDTM) Rating System. UVM will strive to achieve a higher standard of LEEDTM equivalent certification, that of “Gold” or higher, whenever possible. Laboratory design will be guided by a standard equivalent to LEEDTM.
2. Formal Building Commissioning.
Buildings will be fully and formally commissioned as described in the LEEDTM section on Energy & Atmosphere as “additional” commissioning.

The Director of Capital Planning and Management is responsible for developing operating procedures necessary for the implementation of this policy within one year of the effective date of this policy.

Contacts

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to:

Director, Capital Planning & Management
(802) 656-1304

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The Vice President for Finance and Administration is the University official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

Related Documents / Policies

[Procurement or Lease of Services and Goods](#)

Effective Date

Approved by the President on January 2, 2008