OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES
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POLICY

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Title: Energy-efficient and Sustainable Buildings

Policy Statement

This policy defines the University of Vermont's commitment to a high level of environmental sustainability and energy efficiency on campus and within UVM design and construction practices. All significant projects must meet the minimum requirements of the current Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES). CBES is a code that regulates minimum energy conservation requirements and is based on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Current state and local criteria may also apply such as Criterion 9F of Act 250, Burlington's Energy Modelling guidelines, Burlington's Carbon Impact Fee, and Burlington's requirements for bicycle parking and facilities. Formal Building Commissioning shall always be pursued when mechanical systems or building envelopes are significantly altered or expanded independent of any certification.

The University will evaluate incorporating a green building standard for all new construction and major renovation projects. An evaluation study will occur early in the project development stage by the design team and will be reviewed by the project manager, Facilities Management - Operations (Physical Plant Department), and Engineering, and a representative for the Office of Sustainability. Based on the conclusions a recommendation for the appropriate green building standard will be made to UVM senior leadership.

In support of national climate commitments, the UVM Campus Plan 2022-2032 and the University's 2030 carbon neutrality goal outlined in the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan 2023-2040, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification or other appropriate sustainable certifications for projects will be considered where appropriate and when the schedule allows. If LEED is pursued a minimum of silver certification will be established.

Reason for the Policy

This policy supports the University's emphasis on environmental sustainability and health in teaching, research and campus operations, and the University's important role as the flagship institution of higher education in Vermont. The goal of this policy is to bring new and renovated buildings to the forefront of sustainable and energy efficient design, construction, and operation, thereby supporting the Campus Plan 2022-2032 and the University's 2030 carbon neutrality goal outlined in the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan 2023-2040, while enhancing occupant health and productivity.

Applicability of the Policy

The project significance, and thus LEED appropriateness, can be evaluated by both scope and impact. For projects of major renovations, significant system rebuild, or new building construction, LEED Silver Certification (or equivalent) should be evaluated.

Major projects are defined as multi-trade/multi discipline renovations, or new capital buildings. These projects impact multiple building spaces and systems. Because renovation projects range in scope from simple aesthetic improvements to complex physical reconfigurations and complex systems replacement, and may have an extended schedule, they need to be individually evaluated. In general, **minor** renovations typically include deferred maintenance/renewal projects where single components of the building are specifically addressed/replaced. In those cases, requirements for LEED certification will not be part of the project scope.

Definitions

LEED™: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Rating Systems developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, include criteria to address energy efficiency, water efficiency, site selection, material selection, indoor environmental quality, and waste reduction. The University will use the most current version of LEED™. For more information related to additional LEED™ rating systems that may be used on campus, refer to the U.S. Green Building Council.

Procedures

This policy requires that environmental objectives, with accompanying metrics, be developed specific to each new building and major renovation project. It is important to integrate the certification rating system criteria into the design process in every project as early as possible. To select the appropriate certification for major renovations, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted by the end of schematic design, to accurately capture the anticipated energy savings. If LEED™ certification is chosen, then environmental objectives will include achieving a level of LEED™ "Silver" for the LEED™ rating system which is current when the project is registered.

Responsible Department

Due to the potential range of existing conditions – and the ability of a renovation project to address such conditions – it is incumbent that each significant project undergoes an evaluation early in the budgeting and/or design process to determine if LEED (or equivalent) certification is appropriate. Relevant equivalent certifications are found in the Facilities Design Standards.

The Director of Planning, Design & Construction is responsible for presenting the evaluation of each capital project to Senior Leadership to determine if LEED certification is appropriate with regards to university goals, costs, and schedule.

Contacts

Questions concerning the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to the following (in accordance with the policy elaboration and procedures):	
Title(s)/Department(s):	**Contact Information:**
Director, Planning, Design & Construction	(802) 656-3291 https://www.uvm.edu/arch

Forms/Flowcharts/Diagrams

None

Related Documents/Policies

- Purchase or Lease, Contract Approval, and Signatory Authority of Goods and Services

Regulatory References/Citations

All significant projects must meet the minimum requirements of the current Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES). CBES is a code that regulates minimum energy conservation requirements and is based on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Current state and local criteria may also apply such as Criterion 9F of Act 250, Burlington's Energy Modelling guidelines, Burlington's Carbon Impact Fee, and Burlington's requirements for bicycle parking and facilities.

Training/Education

Training will be provided on an as-needed basis as determined by the Approval Authority or the Responsible Official.

About this Policy

Responsible Official:	Vice President for Finance and Administration	**Approval Authority:**	Vice President for Finance and Administration
Policy Number:	4.39.1	**Effective Date:**	December 11, 2024
Revision History:	• V.4.5.1.1 Approved by the President on September 6, 2006 • V.4.5.1.2 Approved by the President on January 2, 2008 • V.4.5.1.3 Approved by the President on October 26, 2011 • Responsible official officially changed from the Vice President for University Relations and Administration to the Vice President for Finance and Treasurer on October 1, 2019 • V.4.39.1 Approved December 11, 2024. Name changed from 'Environmental Design in New and Renovated Buildings' to 'Energy-efficient and Sustainable Buildings'		