

The San Diego City College “Renovations to Buildings A and T” are certified by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) as LEED® Gold under the LEED for New Construction version 2009 Rating System



Some of the sustainable features of the projects are...

1. **Heat Island Effect** – Heat Islands are created when developed spaces absorb the sun’s energy, making the developed area hotter than surrounding undeveloped areas. This heat buildup contributes to increased peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollutions levels, and heat related illness. The projects reduced their heat island effect by utilizing light-colored roofing and hardscape materials surrounding the building, which reflect the sun’s energy back into the atmosphere, thereby reducing the amount of energy used to keep the buildings cool on warm sun-filled days.
2. **Interior Water Savings** – Potable water use inside each building has been reduced by over **40%** through the installation of low flow water closets, urinals, lavatories, and sinks.
3. **Exterior Water Savings** – Outside of the buildings, potable water use is reduced by approximately **68%** and **70%** for Buildings A & T, respectively. This is accomplished through the use of water-efficient landscaping methods and practices that include drip irrigation and electronic controller efficiency, as well as the selection of drought tolerant and low water using plants.
4. **Energy and Atmosphere** – Through careful consideration and thoughtful design, the project teams reduced each building’s individual energy cost by over **40%** when compared to a similar building.
5. **Indoor Environmental Quality** – Low-emitting products such as adhesives and sealants, paints and coatings, and flooring systems were utilized throughout these buildings to reduce the amount of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, potentially irritating, or harmful to the comfort and well-being of occupants.
6. **Community Connectivity** – Through the strategic selection of an urban area with existing infrastructure, which protects greenfields and preserves surrounding habitat and natural resources, the project buildings’ locations are within ½ mile of at least 10 basic services, as well as a residential area with an average minimum density of 10 units per acre.
7. **Green Cleaning** – To reduce building occupant’s exposure to potentially hazardous chemical, biological, and particulate contaminants, which adversely affect air quality, human health, building finishes, building systems, and the environment, the District has implemented a high-performance cleaning program, supported by a green cleaning policy for the maintenance and cleaning of the building.
8. **Public Transportation Access** – The buildings are strategically located within walking distance of ¼ mile or less of multiple bus lines, providing an alternative, cleaner method of transportation for building occupants and visitors.
9. **Building Reuse** – In order to extend the life cycle of the existing buildings’ stock, conserve resources, retain cultural resources, reduce waste and reduce environmental impacts of new buildings as they relate to materials manufacturing and transport, Buildings A & T utilized over **88%** and **98%** of their existing structures, respectively. Reused components include the foundations, roof decks, and interior and exterior walls.

10. **Certified Wood** – To encourage environmentally responsible forest management the project teams selected Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood products for over **80%** of the wood materials permanently installed on each building. This standard incorporates many criteria that contribute to the long-term health and integrity of the forest ecosystems.

11. **[Bldg. T Only] Preferred Parking** – In order to reduce pollution and land development impacts from automobile use and to encourage the use of environmentally friendly automobiles, this project provides preferred parking for low-emitting & fuel-efficient vehicles.