Sustainability and Energy Efficiency in Building Construction Including LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Initiative

Florida State University takes its role as a sustainability leader seriously and is committed to improving the quality of new construction and reducing negative environmental impact on the campus and community. This effort includes initiatives to reduce energy and water use, preserve site resources, improve indoor environmental aspects, and manage the recycling of waste materials. As part of this goal, all new construction and major renovation shall document this effort utilizing the most current certification standards of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and shall seek to achieve a minimum certification level of LEED Silver.

The University strives to begin this effort in the early planning stages in its facility program documents and master planning. Therefore, delineation of the LEED project boundary must be coordinated with the FSU Project Manager and LEED professional in order to correctly report the site conditions for each individual project.

Once selected, both the design professional and the construction manager should focus on the targeted elements to ensure their successful implementation in the project. Value-engineering efforts should consider both the ability to achieve LEED certification and the long term life cycle costs associated with the project.

Should the minimum program requirements for certification, as defined by the USGBC, not be achievable, the Design Professional shall notify the FSU project manager in writing prior to the submittal of Schematic Design documents. If with further consideration, it is determined that LEED certification can not be achieved, the Design Professional should request a waiver from the LEED requirement. Additionally, conflicts between the requirements of LEED and the University Design Guidelines shall be brought to the attention of the project manager.

The following LEED NC 2009 credits are suggested as applicable in most FSU projects based upon successful certifications:

Sustainable Sites (SS)

Credit 1 – Site Selection

Credit 4.1 – Alternative Transportation—Public Transportation Access

Credit 4.2 – Alternative Transportation –Bicycle Storage and Changing Rooms

Credit 4.3 – Alternative Transportation—Low-Emitting and Fuel-Efficient Vehicles

Credit 4.4 – Alternative Transportation—Parking Capacity

Credit 5.2 – Site Development—Maximize Open Space

Water Efficiency (WE)

Credit 3 – Water Use Reduction

Energy and Atmosphere (EA)

- Credit 1 Optimize Energy Performance
- Credit 3 Enhanced Commissioning
- Credit 4 Enhanced Refrigerant Management

Materials and Resources (MR)

- Credit 2 Construction Waste Management
- Credit 4 Recycled Content
- Credit 5 Regional Materials

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ)

- Credit 3/3.1 Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan—During Construction
- Credit 3.2 Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan—Before Occupancy
- Credit 4.1 Low-Emitting Materials—Adhesives and Sealants
- Credit 4.2 Low-Emitting Materials—Paints and Coatings
- Credit 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials—Flooring Systems
- Credit 5 Indoor Chemical and Pollutant Source Control
- Credit 6.1 Controllability of Systems—Lighting
- Credit 7/7.1 Thermal Comfort—Design
- Credit 7.2 Thermal Comfort--Verification