

What Facilities and Planning is doing for Sustainability...

New campus buildings are designed to LEED green standards for the following essential elements for health and livability: Sustainability of site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design.

PSU now has six buildings, either built or renovated that are certified through the US Green Building Council for LEED standards: Stephen Epler Hall, Research Greenhouses, Academic and Student Recreation Center, Shattuck Hall, Engineering, and The Broadway. Additionally, Lincoln Hall has been submitted for potential Platinum level LEED award.

Facilities Project Managers ensure that up to 100 percent of debris and materials from construction projects are recycled.

Facilities Archive of historical building documents is being scanned by staff to facilitate searching and accessibility of materials.

Mail/Shipping has large dumpsters for receiving and shipping out cardboard boxes from campus. They also used push carts to deliver mail, which mitigates use of gas fueled vehicles and pollution.

Surplus property is disposed of through re-use by other departments, transferred, or sold through websites such as Ebay or craigslist, savings space storage costs, and keeping unused materials out of the landfill (add link to the website for surplus property procedures).

The campus recycling program PSU Recycles picks up recycled materials from campus daily, in the housing and academic areas. They sort materials for shipping out to

The Peter Stott Athletic Field is the same synthetic surface played on by 16 NFL teams, including the Seattle Seahawks, Denver Broncos, and Green Bay Packers. The rubber infill material came from over 150,000 recycled athletic shoes (add photo here).

Landscape staff re-locates plants that need to be divided or moved when they become too large for their spaces. Trees are moved if possible when displaced due to renovation; when they have to be removed, their chips are re-used on campus.

Maintenance Services purchases sustainable materials for flooring, paint and other items for renovations and construction. They also recycle construction and material waste, such as obsolete metal chairs, cut offs from framing and other items.

Electrical Services chooses energy efficient fixtures and bulbs as a priority in campus spaces. They also work with the Hazardous Waste Team to recycle and/or dispose of bulbs in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Lock Shop recycles metal keys that can no longer be used to due rekeying of spaces or upgrading of security.

Administrative staff has created a “Green Team” of volunteers within Facilities and Planning to seek out new ways to conserve energy and resources department-wide. They meet regularly, and have accomplished several goals, including setting department printers to default printer settings for two-sided documents, selecting recycled materials for office supplies, working with department staff to turn off power supplies and computers after hours, and more.

Cleaning - PSU custodial staff uses green cleaning products as a priority on campus, and minimizes the use of other disinfects to support a healthier learning and working environment and indoor air quality. For example, they are using an innovative cleaning product that is 99 percent effective as disinfectant, using bottled water and rechargeable batteries only to kill germs (add link to product website). This reusable method saves a significant amount of water and uses no chemicals. They follow the quality and environmental requirements of the Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS) and Certification Program, reuse cloths and mop heads instead of disposable wipes, and seek out new products that meet the sustainable goals of the University. All of these efforts significantly reduce water, chemicals and noise in the environment.

March 22, 2011