

CSUF News

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Energy-efficient windows with sunscreens are one of the features that won the new student housing Platinum (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. Photos: Karen Tapia [Download Image](#)



Sunscreens make the windows of the student housing facility even more energy efficient. [Download photo](#)

Building Green Emphasized on Campus

Cal State Fullerton has been focused on incorporating "green" design and construction elements into its buildings, and many have been honored for their sustainability.

The Student Recreation Center was the first CSUF structure to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. In addition, other buildings constructed on campus were designed to meet the equivalent of the LEED ratings. All are listed below in the order of completion.

[Fullerton Arboretum Visitor Center](#) (2006)

Silver LEED equivalent

2005 Best Practices Award for Overall Sustainable Design, UC/CSU Sustainability Conference
Recognized as Outstanding Design for Work in Progress by Architectural Portfolio for 2005

[Steven G. Mihaylo Hall](#) (2008)

Silver LEED equivalent

Recognized as Outstanding Design for Work in Progress by Architectural Portfolio for 2005

[Student Recreation Center](#) (2008)

Gold LEED certification

Crowned "Best Overall Sustainable Design" at the 2007 Best Practice Awards for the University of California/California State University Energy Efficiency Partnership Program

[University Police Building](#) (2009)

Silver LEED equivalent

[Eastside Parking Structure](#) (2010)

Silver LEED equivalent

[Children's Center](#) (2011)

Silver LEED equivalent

[Student Housing - third phase](#) (2011)

Platinum LEED certification

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Leading California

State's First Platinum LEED Ranking for Student Housing at CSUF

By [Pamela McLaren](#)

March 28, 2012

Cal State Fullerton's newest student housing complex is a step ahead of any statewide — it is the first in California awarded the Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The council's platinum certification is verification that a building or building project meets the highest in green building and performance measures. LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of green buildings.

"We're very proud of this project, which is the largest construction project undertaken on campus in terms of cost, size and scope," said Jay Bond, associate vice president for facilities management and campus architect. The \$143 million project "was designed to provide students with a full residential experience, and it does so while being energy efficient and sustainable."

Completed last summer, the complex is located just south of the campus's older residence halls. Its cluster of five, five-story structures arrayed around a piazza provide housing for more than 1,000 students in double-occupancy rooms, alongside a 571-seat dining hall. The eye-catching Gastronome, with its indoor and outdoor seating areas, is where students and others from throughout the residential and greater campus community come to dine. Other facilities include a convenience store, laundry area, mailroom and meeting room.

The LEED certification is based on a number of components that include sustainable site development, water savings, energy



efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality, said Stephen Chamberlain, senior project manager in Cal State Fullerton's Office of Design and Construction.

"In the area of landscaping, we used native, drought-resistant plants, along with a drip and subsurface irrigation system that reduces potable water usage by 50 percent," he noted. "The landscaping also helps mitigate storm water runoff by diverting the water to rain gardens and bioswales, which absorb and filter water before it reaches storm drains.



An example of the drought-resistant plants used to landscape student housing.

"Water-conserving plumbing fixtures, including high-efficiency toilets, low-flow lavatories, urinals and shower heads will save more than 2 million gallons of water per year," Chamberlain added. "And a single-ply 'cool white roof' type membrane was installed to help reduce building heating and cooling loads."

Materials and resources used in the construction also promote energy conservation and sustainability. More than 30 percent of all materials used in the project were extracted, harvested and manufactured within a 500-mile radius of the project site. Existing site paving and concrete materials from the building site also were recycled. "By implementing a comprehensive construction waste management plan, the contractor, PCL Construction Services, diverted at least 95 percent of the construction waste from landfills," said Chamberlain.

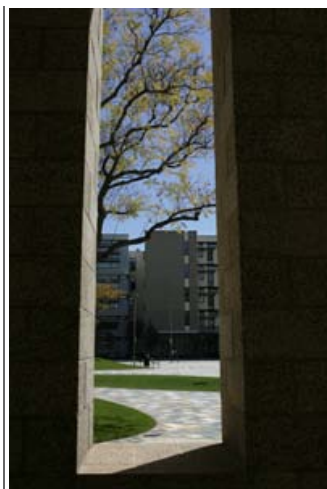
In addition, low-emitting paints, coatings, adhesives, sealants, carpets, resilient flooring and other products were selected to minimize or eliminate toxins often released by conventional building materials, he noted. Green housekeeping products are used to clean and maintain the facilities, and appliances installed in the structures were selected for their EPA Energy Star ratings.

"More than 77 percent of the regularly occupied spaces have natural lighting, meaning less energy used to light a room during the day, and more than 96 percent of the occupied spaces have access to views," he said, citing the high-efficiency lighting, lighting controls, high-efficiency glass and window systems. "High-performance glazing, along with sun screens and fins, help reduce solar heat gain."

Nearby, the university installed [photovoltaic solar panels](#) atop three campus buildings, providing an onsite renewable energy source that offsets the annual energy cost of the project. The solar panel installation is expected to produce 1.16 megawatt hours of electricity annually for the campus, while offsetting more than 700 metric tons of greenhouse gas each year.

Previously, the university's Student Recreation Center, which opened in 2008, was awarded Gold LEED certification, and five other campus facilities (listed above right) are Silver LEED equivalent.

"It's exciting to be working toward greater sustainability," said Chamberlain. "We are a major consumer of energy and natural resources. We, at Cal State Fullerton, are obligated to think globally and act locally and responsibly every day."



The view along a walkway in the new student housing complex. [Download Photo](#)

[A Beacon to Savings - Campus Replacing Lights for More Energy Efficiency](#)

[Greener Power - New Central Plant Becomes Operational](#)

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Students walk along the wide walkways between the latest student housing facilities. The dorm rooms receive natural lighting through the various energy-efficient windows and balconies. [Download Photo](#)

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