Sterling College has a dedicated mission to environmental stewardship. Because of this, we have guidelines and policies around how are buildings are maintained, operated, and renovated that don't particularly fall into LEED and/or other green building councils.

The buildings owned and operated by Sterling College are mostly an assortment of traditional and classic New England buildings. Because of this, Sterling puts more value in the energy contained within the living structure. By not pursuing LEED and other certifications, Sterling college not only saves money but also is able to reinvest and bring value back into the buildings. For instance, instead of investing in equipment required by LEED certifications, Sterling will invest in local companies to renovate the building to better standards. If a new building were built from the beginning, a large amount of material would have to be used and processed and shipped for the construction. Instead of this, Sterling renovates existing structures to become Net-zero buildings, or buildings and structures that produce more energy than they expend.

Net-zero buildings go beyond LEED and other certifications. Not only do they not cost as much to the community and environment with materials, but the energy that they save also saves the community. Overall, this policy has proved most effective and adheres to Sterling College's mission of environmental stewardship.