

Sustainability

DCSM section 1.2.5 addresses sustainability requirements and affirms the desire to maximize sustainability within the affordable limits of the project.

- Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (VT CAC) is contained in Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 262
“Sustainability is the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social justice and equity, through action, education, and engagement to address current needs without compromising the capacity and needs of future generations.”
- Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction Policy, VT Policy No. 5505
- LEED certification for new construction and major renovations
- A/Es encouraged to consider ParkSmart certification when parking garages are part of the project

Sustainability

Approved in 2009 and updated in 2013, the VT CAC contains 14 points and set several goals.

- Reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions
- Monitor and improve electricity and other energy use efficiency (campus heating and cooling, lighting, and transportation)
- Use the campus as a “sustainability laboratory” for student internship and undergraduate research programs
- LEED Silver certification or better for construction projects
- Minimize waste; achieve 50% recycle rate by 2020
- Exceed ASHRAE 90.1 energy performance by 10% for all new buildings and major renovations

Sustainability

The Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction Policy, VT Policy No. 5505, was approved in 2006 and last revised in 2016.

- Policy fully involves the CPIF Division and the VPCPIF must coordinate efforts with other university departments and outside regulatory agencies to develop and implement procedures.
- Construction of a new building that is greater than 5,000 GSF or the renovation of such a building with a cost that exceeds 50% of the value of the building shall follow the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) energy conservation requirements (updated in DEB Notice 121510).
- COV requirements in DEB Notice 121510 listed three conservation options and VT is committed to LEED.

Sustainability

The Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction Policy, VT Policy No. 5505 (continued)

- Design systems based on space use and occupancy to reduce energy costs; educate occupants to participate in energy savings
- Design systems to meet or exceed standards for Federal Energy Policy Act and EPA WaterSense requirements
- Minimize water use and waste by installing low-flow fixtures and landscaping that doesn't require frequent watering
- Recycle construction debris and materials when possible

LEED

- DCSM section 1.2.5.1 addresses the LEED building rating system.
A/Es shall strive to meet or exceed the minimum number of points needed for LEED certification under the rating system appropriate for the project in accordance with the VT CAC.
- Emphasized from the beginning...
A/Es are required to state their compliance with the VT CAC and the applicable version of the LEED checklist on the title sheets for the Schematic Drawings (2.5.2).
- ...to the end of the construction project.
Systems based on the LEED goals of the project are commissioned by the university (1.8.3).

LEED

- VT CAC commitment to LEED
 - Achieve LEED Silver certification or better for all eligible and applicable new buildings and major renovations
 - Evaluate the feasibility of LEED certification for existing buildings
- Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction Policy commitment to LEED

All new buildings greater than 5,000 GSF or the renovation of such a building with a cost that exceeds 50% of the value of the building shall conform to the USGBC LEED Silver standards, consistent with the VT CAC
- VT LEED Program Summary
 - Compilation of construction projects and LEED certification levels attained or in progress
 - Summary is maintained by Capital Construction