

University of Cincinnati




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ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM NO. 127

To: All Administrative Unit Heads

From: Joseph A. Steger 

Re: Sustainable Design Policy

Attached is the University's Policy on Sustainable Design. All landscape, building rehabilitations, and new construction projects shall embrace the principals of this policy. When appropriate, the University Architect, the Directors of Facilities Management, Environmental Health, and Safety will recommend to the President that this policy be reviewed and modified to meet the current demands of University programs.

Attachment

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ML 0553

THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI'S POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Overview

- World population has continued to grow and place significant pressures on natural resources. Evidence of global warming, resource depletion, and environmental degradation continue to mount.
- As a responsible citizen, the University must actively subscribe and support the conservation of our natural and man-made resources.
- Adopting Sustainable Design as a major University goal would permit the University to join the ranks of more than 250 institutions who have made this concept a major policy initiative.

Sustainable Design simply means to meet responsibly the needs of today without destroying the resources that will be needed by future generations.

The Policy

Recognizing its environmental stewardship responsibility, the University seeks to incorporate the concept of sustainability into the design, operation, and maintenance of its buildings and landscapes. We recognize that sustainability is a multi-disciplinary, holistic concept that seeks to achieve harmony between human activity and natural systems by efficiently using resources and preserving them for future generations.

Project Consideration

Each project will be reviewed to determine its contribution to the University's policy. The following basic factors will be considered.

1. Applicability

This policy would apply to all major new construction, rehabilitation, and open space projects. Renovation projects would consider sustainable design criteria related to their scope. Each new building project will strive to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified as a minimum standard of applicability. However, each project development team should strive for the highest standard of compliance. But the sponsor of the project, i.e., college, etc., will make the final decision on these recommendations.

Each rehabilitation project will subscribe to the design criteria proposed by LEED but will be evaluated separately from new building construction. The same philosophy will apply to landscape projects.

Consideration for LEED compliance will be conducted by the design team and the University's project management team at the pre-design or concept development stage.

2. Affordability

Designers will select Sustainable Design strategies that make the most sense for specific projects that can be achieved within the budgets programmed. They will consider initial, operating, and maintenance costs as well as environmental impacts when selecting the best strategies to pursue.

3. Standards of Measurement

The nationally-recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria will be used to evaluate building and landscape projects. This criteria encourages:

- Preserving viable existing buildings and landscapes, and recycling building materials.
- Compact development close to home, transit stops, and bike routes.
- Conserving energy, water, and natural resources with creative design, project and equipment selection. This would be accomplished by using low-maintenance, durable materials, and by using materials and products that are available or manufactured closer to construction sites.
- Using similar strategies to improve the quality of indoor and outdoor air, water, and light.

4. Policy Management

The Division of the University Architect would manage the implementation of the policy and continue to work collaboratively with Facilities Management and Environmental Health and Safety to implement the policy. Representatives of these offices have already played an active role in helping develop the policy and reviewing designs from a maintenance, energy, and environmental perspective.