

Our Commitment

The University of St. Thomas is committed to meeting a minimum of LEED Silver Standard for all newly constructed buildings over 25,000 square feet.

We will continue to refine policy for sustainable construction and to ensure that the new buildings are designed and constructed responsibly, are efficient to operate, provide a healthy environment for the St. Thomas community and are built to minimize future investment.

LEED ® Standard and Strategies

Since the LEED Green Building Rating System for New Construction (LEED-NC version 2.0) was first published in 1999, it has helped professionals across the country improve the quality of buildings and their impact on the environment. Green design not only makes a positive impact on public health and the environment, it also reduces operating costs, enhances building and organizational marketability, potentially increases occupant productivity, and helps create a sustainable community. The University of St. Thomas strives to attain the highest qualifications in the LEED categories of indoor environmental quality, materials and resources, energy and atmosphere, and water efficiency. The areas of focus to receive LEED credit are:

Indoor Environmental Quality

- Indoor air quality and ventilation
- No smoking policy
- Construction IAQ management
- Low-emitting materials and indoor pollutant control
- Thermal comfort
- Lighting controls
- Daylight and views

Materials and Resources

- Storage and collection of recyclables
- Use of materials containing recycled content
- Local/regional materials
- Certified wood

Energy and Atmosphere

- Building commissioning
- Refrigerant management
- Energy conservation/performance

Water Efficiency

- Water use reduction for irrigation
- Water use reduction in plumbing fixtures

General Strategies

- Erosion and sedimentation control
- Alternative transportation
- Development footprint
- Stormwater management

General site: <http://new.usgbc.org/>

LEED site: <http://new.usgbc.org/leed>