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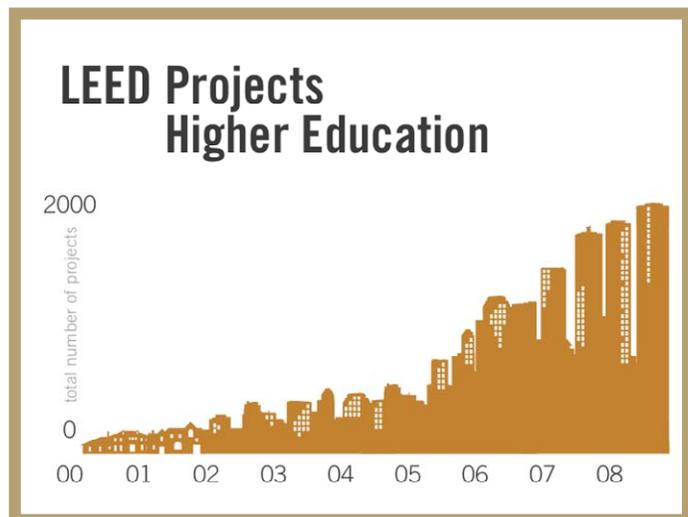
SUSTAINABLE HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES: Green schools produce high-performing students while reducing operating costs

Sustainable education facilities create more effective learning environments, according to the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) (USGBC). Green schools also save on average \$100,000 per year on operating costs and use 33 percent less energy and 32 percent less water than conventionally constructed schools. No wonder then that education is one of the fastest growing markets for green buildings and [LEED](#) certification.



College and universities are at the forefront of this movement, boasting a higher percentage of LEED-certified green space than any other sectors including government, retail and hospitality. Many already mandate minimum levels of LEED certification for all new campus facilities while others are taking it a step further and retrofitting old facilities to bring them into conformance with LEED standards.

Yet greening a campus takes more than simply enhancing the performance of individual buildings, according to the USGBC's [Center for Green Schools](#). "Institutions need to consider methods for integrating sustainable practices into the complete life cycle of a campus starting from the master planning to the daily operations and maintenance." For institutions of higher education, the LEED certification program can serve as a blueprint for campus greening efforts from setting design standards and improving master development planning and specifications to institutionalizing sustainability efforts.



Source: Center for Green Schools

Roadmap to a Green Campus

The USGBC defines “green campus” as a higher education community that is improving energy efficiency, conserving resources and enhancing environmental quality by educating for sustainability and creating healthy living and learning environments. It has created [Roadmap to a Green Campus](#), a free 118-page PDF resource to “assist colleges and universities of various sizes, budgets, and locations in defining and meeting their sustainability goals.”

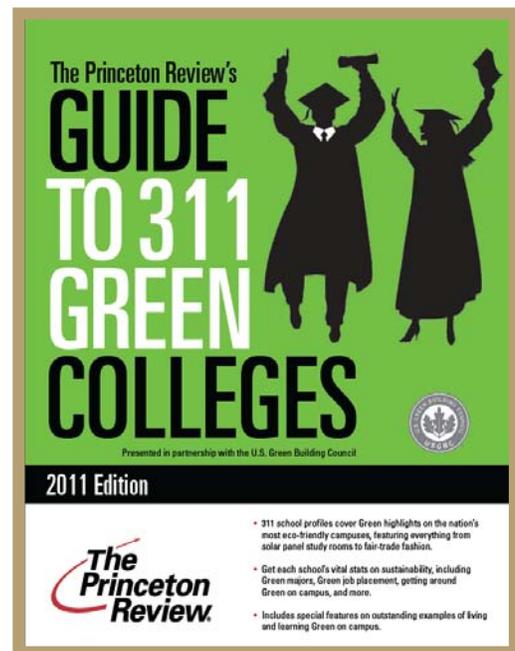
Higher education “LEEDs” the green dialogue

In 1990, three years before the USGBC was formed, the [Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future](#) (ULSF) convened a conference of 22 U.S. and international universities in Talloires, France to discuss the role of the world’s universities in a sustainable future. The result was [The Talloires Declaration](#), a 10-point plan and the first official commitment made by university presidents, chancellors, and rectors to environmental sustainability in higher education. To date, it has been signed by more than 429 university presidents and chancellors in more than 52 countries.

The [American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment](#) (ACUPCC) is another network of colleges and universities dedicated to incorporating sustainable practices into university operations and curriculum. Launched in 2007, it provides a framework for American colleges and universities to implement sustainable practices on campus in pursuit of climate neutrality.

Last April, The Princeton Review in collaboration with the USGBC released [Guide to 311 Green Colleges](#), its second annual profile of higher education institutions in the U.S. and Canada that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation. Nine Florida universities made the list including:

- Florida A&M University
- Florida State University
- Stetson University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of North Florida
- University of South Florida
- University of West Florida



The Princeton Review’s Guide to 311 Green Colleges makes it clear that LEED has become the industry standard. Students today are concerned about the environment and consider the sustainability and environmentalism of the schools they choose to attend. Students, professors, administrators and the community at-large recognize that

sustainability is the right thing to do for the environment and future generations. And school boards, facilities departments, and administrators now realize that sustainability is good for the bottom line.

At CTH+A, we have made a concrete effort to promote the green campus approach to our clients whenever possible. A recent example, is CTH+A's work with Seminole State College's Oviedo Campus Master Plan. The master plan and guidelines are the roadmap to a future sustainable, green campus supporting the college and the local community in Central Florida. For this project, the planning team collaborated with Seminole State College, Seminole County, and the City of Oviedo planning and development representatives to help maintain the coordination of compatible long-range plans for the College and the Oviedo Center. Additionally, C.T. Hsu has presented the topic of "Why develop a GREEN, green campus" at national and international associations in association with one of the firm's green partners VHB. More information on CTH+A efforts are noted in the CTH+A Firm / Staff News sections of this newsletter.

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