

LEED Silver Rating on all Buildings

UC Merced has committed to a minimum LEED Silver rating on all campus buildings. UC Merced has developed a set of campus-wide site development & infrastructure LEED credits that apply to every project. Additional LEED credits are selected for each new building project to meet the LEED Silver rating.

UC Merced's campus-wide LEED credit commitments include:

- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Alternative Transportation
- Reduce Site Disturbance
- Storm Water Management
- Light Pollution Reduction
- Water Efficient Landscaping
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke
- Building as a Teaching Tool

Additional LEED credits chosen on a project basis include:

- Heat Island Effect Reduction
- Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements
- Water Use Reduction
- Optimize Energy Performance
- Ozone Protection
- Storage & Collection of Recyclables
- Construction Waste Management
- Recycled Content
- Regional Materials
- Rapidly Renewable Materials
- Certified Wood
- Carbon Dioxide Monitoring
- Low-Emitting Materials
- Controllability of Systems
- Daylight and Views

Energy

UC Merced minimizes its environmental impact by promoting energy efficiency, peak demand reduction, and the development of renewable resources through six key mechanisms.

- **Energy Efficient Infrastructure**
Centralized heating and cooling leverages efforts to achieve and maintain operating efficiencies. Thermal energy storage allows the campus to shift all of the energy used to produce cooling to the middle of the night, saving both energy and money.
- **LEED Certification**
LEED certification for new construction provides an excellent framework to promote quality in building design and construction.
- **Building Energy Performance Targets**
UC Merced sets specific energy performance targets for its buildings, with a goal that they require half the energy and peak demand of other university buildings in California.
- **Living Laboratory**
UC Merced has deployed extensive control and monitoring systems to facilitate continuous improvement in campus operational efficiency, and to serve as a primary component of UC Merced's "living laboratory" for the study of engineering and resource conservation.
- **Climate Neutrality**
UC Merced is implementing UC policy to register and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pursue the development of renewable resources, and prepare an action plan to achieve climate neutrality.

- **LEED for Existing Building**
LEED certification promotes efficiency and minimizes impact of ongoing operations.

Sustainability is Integrated into Campus Life

- Local Food Purchasing
- Environmental Procurement and Purchasing
- Alternative Transportation
- Community Outreach with new employee orientations
- Recycling
- Green Cleaning
- Green Landscaping

Multidisciplinary Academic Programs Focused on the Environment

- **Environmental Engineering** - provides an interdisciplinary approach to provide students with a firm foundation in the physical and life sciences and the ways that they apply to energy, hydrology, air and water quality issues.
- **Earth Systems Science** - provides students with a quantitative understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological principles that control the processes, reactions, and evolution of the Earth as a support system for life.

Other Sustainability Efforts at UC Merced

- LEED – EB (Existing Buildings)
- Chancellors' Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Sierra Nevada Research Institute
- The Green Club
- Green Campus Program
- Climate Action Registry