

# The Commons Center Green Features Summary LEED Gold Certification

- The Commons Center was built on the site of the old Hill Center, which did not require the use of virgin greenspace for this new construction.
- **65%** of the waste generated from the demolition of the old Hill Center was diverted from landfill disposal by reuse or recycling.
- Many materials used during construction were selected from within a **500-mile** radius of the building site to help reduce the environmental impact of transporting those materials.
- The specially designed **reflective roof** and hardscape reduces the building's impact on local microclimate by decreasing the urban "Heat Island" effect.
- In total, the project's energy usage was reduced by approximately **26%** due to inclusion of energy-efficient kitchen fume hoods, heat-reducing window glazing, and occupancy and daylight sensors.
- This building saves approximately **900,000 gallons** of water per year by using low-flow faucets and showers, waterfree urinals, and dual-flush toilets.
- Drywall used on this project contains **5%** post-consumer recycled content and **94%** post-industrial content. Steel used throughout the building contains **95%** post-consumer recycled content.
- Each office and workstation in the Commons Center has **desk-side recycling**. Additional recycling locations are readily accessible by all building users.
- Produce scraps from the dining facility are **composted** on-site behind the Commons Center, diverting usable resources from landfills and contributing to fertilization of flowerbeds on Vanderbilt's campus. Additional post-consumer food waste material is reduced in volume by **85%** and removed from the wastewater stream by a **pulper** installed in the dining operation.
- Special control systems have been implemented as part of the building's **lighting design** to determine when a sufficient amount of daylight is available inside the building. Artificial lighting is turned off, saving energy.
- Occupancy sensors save, on average, **10%** of the energy used by a building's lighting system. These sensors also control the conditioned airflow to a space. When a space is unoccupied, the heating or cooling is automatically reduced, saving energy.
- Cooking oil from the kitchen is refined and processed on Vanderbilt's campus into **biodiesel** fuel, which is used in some of Vanderbilt's groundskeeping equipment.
- Vanderbilt has established a non-smoking policy in buildings and prohibits smoking within 25 ft of building entrances, ensuring air quality inside the facility and promoting individual health.
- The cleaning products used in this building are healthier than traditional cleaners, and all paper products used in restrooms meet the EPA's criteria of **40%** recycled content.
- To encourage the use of bicycles as transportation options, the Commons Dining center has provided ample parking for bicycles close to the building entrance and included showers and changing rooms.
- The area where students now enjoy playing Frisbee, sunbathing, and eating lunch was once an asphalt parking lot that was removed and reclaimed as **green space** so that students could enjoy more space outdoors while reducing the urban heat island and storm water runoff.

