Stambaugh, Hank Ingram and Murray Houses received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-Level certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in January 2009. Crawford and Sutherland Houses, both Silver-Level certified in August 2007, were the first LEED-certified buildings at any college or university in Tennessee. Primary environmentally-friendly features that achieve LEED certification by the USGBC are as follows:

- **Fifty-two percent** of waste generated during construction was diverted from the landfill.
- Many local manufacturers and materials were selected to reduce the environmental impact related to transportation of the products. **Fifty percent** of project materials were obtained from within 500 miles of the site.
- Efficient mechanical systems were selected, reducing energy usage by approximately **20%**.
- **Reflective roofing**, light colored concrete, and tree-plantings were utilized so that the amount of solar energy absorbed by the building and site is minimized, reducing the urban “heat island” effect.
- Atriums and stairwells allow maximum **natural lighting**, also called “daylighting.”
- **Recycled glass** is incorporated into terrazzo floors.
- Bamboo was used for flooring and furniture because its rapid growth-rate allows for faster replenishment.
- The dormitories use **low-flow and waterfree fixtures** to reduce their overall potable water consumption.
- **Pervious pavement** allows rainwater to pass through paving and recharge the groundwater, reducing the development’s impact on neighboring streams.
- All HVAC equipment used on this project meets strict guidelines to ensure very little leakage of HCFCs.
- All materials, paints, adhesives, sealants, and carpets used in Commons Residence Houses **Contain little or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs).**
- All residence houses have accessible aluminum, plastic, paper, and cardboard **recycling**, and each room is furnished with a recycling bin.
- Student rooms are equipped with individual temperature controls and operable windows to allow for most-efficient use of heating and cooling.