



National Wildlife Federation®
CAMPUS
ecology®

**Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
Spring 2008, Building Design**

BACKGROUND

Campus Profile

Ball State University, situated on 940 acres in Muncie, Indiana, serves approximately 19,000 students (45 percent male, 55 percent female). Seven academic colleges offer 120 undergraduate programs, 80 masters programs and 20 doctoral programs in 46 departments and schools. Some 750 faculty, 550 professional staff and 1,500 support personnel comprise the employee base.

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GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goals

The primary goal was requiring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for all new campus facility design.

Accomplishments

A requirement for LEED Silver certification for all new construction and the consideration of LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) certification for all building renovation and remodeling was written into the 2007–2012 Ball State University Strategic Plan. Under this policy, two recently constructed facilities are in the process of completing their Silver certification clearance with the United States Green Building Council: the David Letterman Communication and Media Building and the Park Hall Residential Facility. (Follow this link for a video tour of the Letterman Building: <http://www.bsu.edu/reallife/0709video/>.)

Challenges and Responses

Initial reaction to the requirement of LEED Silver certification included a concern about added cost during construction. We continue to make the case through campus-wide channels that the return on investment (percentage return as opposed to payback years) favors additional up-front cost (if required), although the modest marginal difference in construction expense for achieving LEED Silver certification can be nominal.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

Provost Terry King commissioned the 2007–2012 Strategic Plan and mandated that LEED Silver certification requirement for new building construction and LEED-EB certification for remodeling and renovation be included.

Funding and Resources

There are no up-front costs in securing the agreement to weave this into the strategic plan; however, as mentioned above, ongoing concerns about added construction costs continue to be an item of conversation within the administration.

Community Outreach and Education

We intend to share more effectively the impact of the LEED Silver certification on these buildings, most notably, the plan to install active learning environments in which the key features of the Letterman Building—its net performance on a daily, weekly and yearly basis— can be shared.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

LEED Silver certification of new construction will assure reductions in our carbon footprint. Documentation of the specific impact of the Letterman Building and Park Hall will be noted in the campus carbon-footprint analysis currently underway.

National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology® Program

We continue to rely on the NWF Campus Ecology Program resources, as well as materials produced by other universities that we acquired through the Campus Ecology network.

CLOSING COMMENT

Ball State University was the first state-supported university to require LEED Silver certification for new construction. Other universities have now stepped in, and most recently, the governor of Indiana has issued an executive order (encouraging not mandating) that all new state-funded facilities consider LEED certification as a way to assure effective performance.