Duke Sustainability

Rubenstein Hall

Building Information
Tenant: Sanford School of Public Policy

Architect: Architectural Resources Cambridge

Construction: Clancy & Theys

Purpose: Teaching Facilities & Administrative

Footprint: 66,446 sq ft.

Rubenstein Hall was constructed to provide space for the rapidly growing Public Policy program at Duke. LEED certification was a natural goal for building's occupants, which include Duke's Center for International Development.

View Rubenstein Hall's LEED Scorecard

Sustainable Site Features
Rubenstein's location, on a redeveloped lot near the core of campus, gives occupants convenient access to several campus bus routes and walking paths. Minimal use of dark asphalt in the building's landscaping reduces the heat island effect, while native landscaping reduces irrigation requirements and controls site erosion.

Water Efficiency
Rubenstein achieves more than 30% reductions in water consumption through low-flush toilets and special fixtures throughout the building.

Energy Efficiency
The building achieved at least 15% reductions in energy consumption through installation of occupancy sensors and efficient lighting. A Siemens Building Automation Control System, connected to University's Energy Management office, helps to ensure optimal performance of the building's mechanical systems at all times. Rubenstein received an additional LEED point for hiring System Worx to commission the building, upon completion of construction, guaranteeing that the building performed to the highest standards.

Indoor Air Quality

Low-VOC paints, carpeting, sealants, adhesives and wood composites were used in the building's construction. Extensive use of treated windows in the building's exterior allows natural daylight to reach 75% of the building's interior, creating a healthier and more productive work environment.

Resource Management
The construction team was able to collect and recycle more than 50% of the waste generated during the building's construction. Materials made from recycled post-consumer waste were used extensively throughout the building, and all wood was FSC certified.

Integration of Sustainability in Design & Construction Process
Rubenstein received additional points for reduction in water use of more than 40% and for involvement of a LEED AP certified Duke Project Manager.