

SUSTAINABILITY

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 Columbia University is committed to the use of sustainable design practices in the design and construction of all sizes of projects on campus. The CU Sustainable Design approach strikes a balance among many factors – environmental, economic, occupant comfort and health, while providing an academic environment that supports the University’s mission and goals now and in the future.
- 1.2 CUFO evaluates all products that are incorporated into CU projects for their environmental impact. The resulting evaluations are reflected in these CU Design Requirements. Careful consideration is given to:
 - Durability and longevity
 - Local sourcing of materials
 - Low VOC content
 - Recycled content and recycling practices
 - Sustainability practices and ratings of major vendors
- 1.3 Sustainability measures incorporated into all CUFO projects:
 - Energy and water efficiency
 - Daylighting strategies
 - Lighting controls
 - Use of best rated Energy Star appliances
 - Low-flow plumbing fixtures
 - Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation
 - Upgrade of century-old buildings to meet current ASHRAE standards for ventilation
 - HVAC engineering strategies incorporating economizer settings whenever possible
 - Commissioning of new and modified systems
 - Health and wellness
 - Ergonomic furniture
 - Early adoption of new technologies such as sit-stand desking
 - Signage and graphics to support use of stairs for circulation
 - Use of low-emitting materials for paint, carpet tile, furniture, and other finishes
 - Bicycle racks
 - Construction waste diversion
 - Construction waste separation to include

- proper disposal of lamps, ballasts, thermostats, and other hazardous materials
- Reuse or donation of lightly used furniture
- Recycling of metals

1.4 CUFO utilizes one of two approaches for ensuring that all projects incorporate sustainable practices into the project process – large scope and small scope.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Large scope projects

- a. CU has adopted the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, administered by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), as the standard for all large projects. The minimum target is LEED Gold. The Project Manager, in conjunction with the VP – Capital Project Management, will establish project-specific targets.
- b. CU has established a LEED Sample Scorecard to demonstrate the University's priorities in pursuit of LEED credits on CU projects. This scorecard is intended as a reference for Consultants and is not a substitute for the project-required documentation.

2.2 Small scope projects

- a. LEED certification is not required, but the Consultant shall follow the basic LEED framework for sustainable design decision-making as appropriate to the scope of the project. All small projects will be subject to an internal review by the CUF Sustainability Committee (SC) at the same project intervals as large projects. The required document, the [CU "LEED Alternative" Checklist](#) is attached.
- b. Construction Methods – the following construction methods must be followed where applicable:
 1. Construction and Demolition Debris
 - a) Divert 75% of construction waste from landfill
 2. Air Quality:
 - a) Construction IAQ Management Plan, during Construction
 - b) Construction IAQ Management Plan, before Occupancy
 3. Construction Activity Pollution Prevention
 - a) Construction Activity Pollution Prevention.
- c. Salvageable Building components
 1. Design Consultant, with review by Facilities Project Manager and Planning Office to identify salvageable building components and determine their reuse by CU or qualified salvage vendor.
- d. Salvageable Furniture and Equipment

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DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

1. Facilities Project Manager and Director – Design & Compliance (DDC) to evaluate existing furniture and equipment for potential storage and re-use on other projects.
- 2.3 The determination of the project approach (small or large) will be made by the VP – Capital Project Management.

END OF SECTION