

Sustainability at SCU

In 2004, Santa Clara University adopted a comprehensive sustainability policy. This policy identifies three main areas where students, faculty, and staff can be part of the university's goal to become a more sustainable institution: environmental stewardship, environmental education, and environmental service.

The Commons at Kennedy Mall

The need for a new residence common area was combined with a need to test and demonstrate sustainable building design features to determine how these features could be applied to other buildings on campus.

Centered between four residence halls on the southwest end of campus, the 7,500 square foot Commons at Kennedy Mall is a building of the future.

Opened in February 2006, the building is composed of sustainable design features, contains two classrooms, two offices, a large common room for meetings and events, a study/entertainment room, and a kitchen.

For more information

Visit our website

www.scu.edu/sustainability/commons

Sustainability at SCU

www.scu.edu/sustainability

Directions to the building

www.scu.edu/map

Schedule a tour

contact our Sustainability Coordinator
Lindsey Cromwell: lcromwell@scu.edu



Sustainability at SCU

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The Commons at Kennedy Mall

*a sustainable design
demonstration building*

Sustainable Design Features in the Commons at Kennedy Mall

LIVING GREEN ROOF

A green roof is an extension of an existing roof that involves a plant growth system. Green roofs provide improved air quality, protection from physical damage to the roof and insulation reducing heating and cooling costs for the building.



RADIANT HEATING

Hot water is pumped through specially designed tubing embedded in concrete. Water warms the concrete which slowly warms the room from the bottom up. Occupants can enjoy constant temperatures without contaminants from heating ducts.



WATERFREE URINALS

Each waterfree urinal consists of a replaceable cartridge that supports fluid flow without the need for water. These urinals each save an average of 40,000 gallons of water and \$200 in maintenance costs per year.



NATURAL VENTILATION

During warmer months, a vent at the top of the heat chimney tower opens, allowing warmed air to naturally flow out of the building. This airflow draws cooler air from the outside into the building. Windows can be manually operated to increase airflow.



DAYLIGHTING

Natural light can increase occupant satisfaction and productivity, reduce energy usage, and can enhance the aesthetics of a building. When integrated with sensors to control electric lighting, day lighting can reduce a building's lighting energy use by 10 to 30%.



SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL



Design materials are composed of renewable resources such as wheat, straw, sunflower seeds, and bamboo, which replenishes itself up to twenty times faster than some hardwood trees.

The Commons at Kennedy Mall is home to a variety of classes, meetings, and events including **Campus Sustainability Day**, an annual celebration of University sustainability each October.

NATURAL INSULATION

Straw bales and blue jeans provide insulation for the building. Blue jean insulation is an environmentally safe, non-itch material. Straw bales reduce the energy needs of a building by 15-25%.



RAISED FLOORING

Raised floors allow for organization of cables and wires and room design flexibility. Under floor air distribution provides thermal comfort from the ground-up, eliminating the energy needed to force air down from the ceiling.



SUSTAINABLE CARPETING

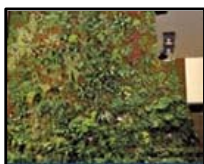


Carpeting is composed of post-production yarn—leftovers from the end of a production run. The carpeting supplier is known for its sustainability practices.

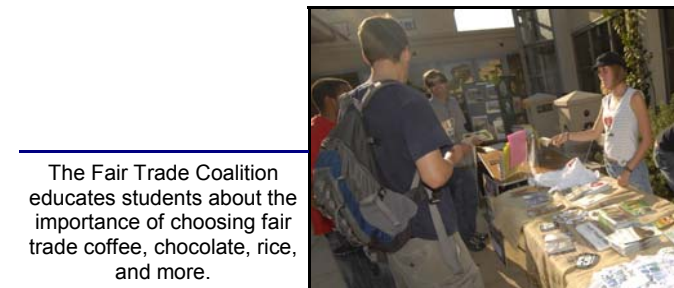


Students and staff provide information about undergraduate and alumni opportunities with the Environmental Studies Institute

BIO-FILTER WALL



This living wall is a natural filter, creating fresh air as it removes pollutants from the air through a process called bio-filtration.



The Fair Trade Coalition educates students about the importance of choosing fair trade coffee, chocolate, rice, and more.