

Case Study

Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies



- Located in Oberlin, Ohio
- Implements several green building techniques to keep this large structure energy-efficient and yet comfortable.
- To minimize water consumption, the Lewis Center employs a water treatment system it named "The Living Machine." As the system takes in wastewater, the machine treats and purifies the water so that it can be reused for toilets.
- The photovoltaic (PV) system on the building's roof also works to reduce environmental impact. Using the sunlight, this system provides a significant amount of the energy for the building, which reduces its reliance on coal-fired power plants. Whenever this system provides more energy than the building needs, the local power company purchases the gratuitous electricity.
- Appropriately positioned windows help the building take significant advantage of the daylight.
- Geothermal wells also help to heat and cool the building.
- When possible, the construction utilized scrap materials from the rest of the campus. The students and faculty also strive to use surrounding land in the most environmentally conscientious ways as well. Part of their mission included creating a nearby wetland to help reverse the effect of human elimination on wetlands in Ohio. Also, fruit orchards on the Lewis Center land provide produce.

Source- <http://science.howstuffworks.com/10-sustainable-buildings4.htm>