

LEED
PLATINUM
CERTIFIED



university of oregon school of law portland program



a case study in sustainable design

As the first law school in the nation to establish an environmental law program, the University of Oregon School of Law always has had a strong commitment to sustainability. In keeping with this sustainability commitment, the School of Law selected the LEED Gold Certified, historic White Stag Block as the home for its new lecture/teaching space in Portland. The goals for tenant improvements in the facility were to create a highly sustainable educational space and formal presentation forum for visiting lecturers.

Sustainable design strategies for the project ranged from the careful selection of a LEED Certified building to house the School of Law, to the purchase of Energy Star equipment and appliances. The building's mechanical system is over 30% more efficient than is required by code, a cistern collects 10,000 gallons of water for reuse throughout the building, and the restrooms used by the Law School yield over 75% wastewater savings annually. The School's location in the Old Town District is also within easy walking distance of many different services and restaurants, as well as multiple modes of public transit.

Secure bike storage and changing/shower facilities are available to users of the School of Law Portland Program space.

Tenant improvements included high performance dimmable lighting with photocells to autodim the lighting when enough daylight is present in the space. Bamboo wall paneling is rapidly renewable, and all the wood used for the project is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

As an education and presentation forum, acoustics were an important design consideration. Acoustic buffering is provided by an acoustical cork underlayment, comprised of 85% recycled materials and rapidly renewable, FSC certified cork. Furnishings in the space include tables and seating made from reclaimed alder wood, extracted and manufactured within 500 miles of the project site. To ensure the highest level of indoor environmental quality, all adhesives, paints, and carpet systems are low VOC.

The project is LEED-CI Platinum Certified.





uo school of law portland program sustainability features

Sustainable Sites

- The Portland program for the University of Oregon's School of Law is located in the White Stag Block, at the heart of Portland's Old Town district in a historic LEED Gold Certified building.
- The building is within easy walking distance of multiple public transit modes.
- To encourage alternative transportation methods, cyclists have plenty of secure bike storage, as well as shower/changing facilities.

Water Efficiency

- In addition to using low-flow fixtures, the restrooms adjacent to the University of Oregon's School of Law space use rainwater collected in a 10,000 gallon cistern from the building's roof for flushing fixtures. This system results in a 75% wastewater savings.

Energy and Atmosphere

- The highly efficient lighting provides photocell dimming in response to the amount of daylight entering the space, reducing the lighting power density by 25% below that of standard lighting.
- The office's HVAC system is 30% more efficient than typical office systems.
- 100% of the EnergyStar eligible appliances are EnergyStar rated.

Materials and Resources

- Over 50% of the waste generated during the construction process was recycled and, consequently, diverted from landfills.
- 25% of the furnishings are made from reused materials and 7% of the finishes are reused materials.
- Over 20% of the materials used in the renovation were extracted and manufactured within 500 miles of the project site, minimizing the environmental impacts that result from materials transportation and supporting the local economy.
- Over 16% of the materials used in the project were recycled.
- 20% of the materials are rapidly renewable, including the bamboo wall

systems. Rapidly renewable materials have a maximum 10-year harvest cycle, reducing the depletion of finite raw materials.

- 90% of the wood used in the project was certified with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), ensuring that it was sourced from sources that use environmentally responsible forest management practices.

Indoor Environmental Quality

- To reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are potentially harmful to building occupants, only low-emitting paints, adhesives, and carpets were used.

Innovation & Design

- The UO School of Law Portland Program has committed to using a Green Cleaning policy, complying with Green Seal standards.
- Education about green building and sustainability is another goal of the project, and mission for the UO School of Law. Green building signage will be permanently installed in the space to highlight the space's sustainability features and green building techniques.