

Sustainable Multifunctional Facilities:

R. W. Kern Center at Hampshire College (2016)

As Western Michigan University prepares to redevelop the South Neighborhood in 2018, the Office for Sustainability (OfS) is helping to foreground exemplary design and higher education construction projects that integrate low life-cycle costs, high quality of life, and sustainable economic development.



Overview

- 17,000 ft² multifunctional welcome building
- \$10.4 million including \$7.4 million in construction
- Systems and performance are highly accessible to students and public for study
- Interior spaces include an atrium, café, lounge, gallery, offices and classrooms
- Exterior features include an amphitheater, rainwater harvesting reservoirs, solar farm, orchard and wildflower meadow

Sustainability

- Largest Living Building Certification higher-education project in the world
- Net zero energy, 100% generated on-site by 118-kW PV
- Electricity not used is sent back to main distribution loop
- Net zero water due to composting toilets, on-site water treatment system, stormwater collection system
- Pedestrian-encouraged landscape design
- Student research integrated into design and construction process
- Real-time digital dashboard system tied to utilities
- Locally sourced materials, most fabricated within 500 km of site
- <https://www.hampshire.edu/discover-hampshire/rw-kern-center>
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