

Sustainability Features @RIT

Golisano Institute of Sustainability
GIS is a multidisciplinary academic unit with education and research programs in sustainability that focus on sustainable production, sustainable energy, sustainable mobility and ecologically friendly information technology systems. The building, one of the newest additions to RIT's campus has been designed to exceed LEED Platinum standards. The building is a living laboratory that includes a host of alternative energy systems including a roof top solar array, vertical wind turbines, a geo thermal system, a fuel cell and a microgrid. To learn more about this facility, stop by or visit: <http://www.rit.edu/gis/facilities/>.

EV charging stations
Level two electronic vehicle (EV) charging stations can be found in parking lot T. The stations are connected to the Golisano Institute for Sustainability microgrid. This will not only make it more convenient for RIT community members and guests to charge their vehicles, but it will also enable unique research opportunities.

Engineering Technology Hall
This is RIT's first facility designed and built according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System. It is Certified LEED gold and boasts a 2.22 kW solar array; two 1500-gallon cisterns in the basement that collect rainwater from the roof that is used to flush toilets in the restrooms; and lighting and HVAC controls that monitor building occupancy and reduce power demands accordingly.

Wetlands
The RIT campus is home to 179 acres of federally designated wetlands. They serve an important ecological role in the watershed and are a valuable source of biodiversity. The wetlands serve as an excellent subject for classes and research conducted by RIT's faculty and students, with portions reserved for research initiatives such as the RIT Bird Observatory.

University Services Center
This was the first building to earn LEED Platinum certification in Monroe County. The promotion of alternative transportation was central in this building project, illustrated by the shower and locker facilities for cyclists on the first floor of the building, as well as the low emission vehicle parking included in S lot. Products made from rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo and those containing recycled content like the carpeting can be found throughout the building. There is also a 12.40 kW solar array on the roof.

Global Village Green Roof
As you walk out of the University Services Center heading into the Global Village, look to your right. The roof of the Cantina and Grill is not just an ordinary roof; it is an intensive green roof. In other words, there are grasses and flowers planted in several inches of soil on the roof. Green roofs provide excellent insulation and absorb rainwater, reducing the amount of stormwater resulting from the building. The green roof is one of the many sustainable design features that contributed to the Global Village project earning LEED Gold.

Gleason Circle
Walking from Global Village toward the Wallace Center you will pass through Gleason Circle, the central hub for transportation at RIT. It was redesigned in 2010 with active transportation in mind, including an abundance of covered bike parking and wide bike paths. The bus shelter is heated in the winter to increase user comfort and encourage bus use even in the coldest months. Water flow was a major consideration in the design. Strips of permeable pavement flank the sides of the walkway in several areas, allowing water to drain through concrete and into the adjacent rain garden (filtering the water before it flows into the wetlands).

Community Garden
The Community Garden is part of RIT's Better Me Program and is a cooperative garden initiative among members. In addition to providing produce to its members, the Community Garden donates extra produce to Food Link. The Community Garden focuses on using sustainable materials and methods, which is demonstrated when it was constructed. The wood used to construct its raised garden beds was donated and was reclaimed from a Manhattan demolition project.

Nature Trails
Take the scenic route to the east side of campus. In the area between Grace Watson Hall and the Student Alumni Union is a wooded area with nature trails for the RIT community to enjoy. Here students and faculty can enjoy a walk in the woods or have a more scenic route to class.

Eco-swale at Perkins Green
Between the road and the parking lot in front of Perkins Green Apartments you will see an attractive section of landscaping. It is more than just landscaping though; it's an Eco-swale. Storm water flows into the Eco-swale from the re-built parking lot and the roof tops of the student residences, for a total impervious surface area of 94,920 square feet. The Eco-swale captures runoff from these surfaces, detaining and treating over 1.2 million gallons of storm water run-off each year. Three outflow points allow treated water to move from the Eco-swale into the natural wetland areas north of Perkins Road. For more information: <http://bcove.me/jqfopf2h>

Liberty Hill (off-campus)
Located off campus on Lehigh Station Road, the President's home or Liberty Hill shows that RIT's commitment to sustainability is evident at the highest level of the University. A significant portion of the property is grassland that has been planted with native species such as milkweed, a favorite of monarch butterflies. Leftover food from catered events is composted and used on site. Perhaps the most visible sign is the newly installed 10.3 kilowatt solar array that is expected to produce 11,900 kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

RIT Inn and Conference Center (off-campus)
RIT's Inn and Conference Center, located just off the Thruway on West Henrietta Road, has earned a 3-Green Leaf rating from Audubon International's Eco-Rating program. Some of their efforts include composting of restaurant food waste; the provision of recycling receptacles throughout the hotel including guest rooms; energy and water conservation and the use of green cleaning products. The Inn's restaurant even uses fresh herbs grown in their on-site garden. The RIT Inn was awarded the "2011 Good Earthkeeping Award" by the New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association

