

Green Building Statement and Questions

Building “green” reflects a desire to be deliberate and informed about the impact the new science complex will have on human and nonhuman communities on the Hill and beyond. At St. Olaf, we will be green through a planning, construction, and operations strategy that seeks to simultaneously adhere to the following guidelines to maximize, minimize, and mitigate.

Maximize

- implementation of energy conserving and resource conserving technologies such as solar heat, heat recapture and natural lighting.
- the use of recycled materials
- the use of the entire building as an educational tool at an operational level through the extensive incorporation of publicly accessible monitoring data and through the inclusion of technology demonstrations (e.g. Green Machine, composting toilet, waterless urinals, gray water, Living Roof, passive solar and solar voltaics, heat pumps)
- utilization of ‘Green Chemistry’ and other approaches that reduce ventilation needs and waste generation

Minimize

- construction waste through aggressive use of on-site recycling, selection of construction material with minimum packaging and the reuse or recycling of materials removed during remodeling of existing buildings.
- CO₂ production involved in production or disposal of construction materials or generation of energy to operate the building.
- tree loss at the Flaten site through careful placement of the building and consideration of alternatives to the ring road.
- soil erosion and loss during construction through the use of covers or plantings on soil piles, runoff capture pits as well as silt fences and the separation of topsoil during initial phases of excavation.
- transport of excavation materials on and off site as a way of saving energy.

Mitigate

- tree loss and CO₂ generation through a commitment to plant additional acres of College land to trees or grasslands and investigating the construction of wind towers.
- the loss of habitat due to poor forestry through the use of recycled or certified wood and the production of lumber from any useable trees removed for construction.
- light pollution through the use of shielded outdoor fixtures around the science complex and across campus.