Aquinas College is located on the eastern edge of Grand Rapids and houses several LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings. Certification is given by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to recognize the world’s greenest, energy-efficient, and high performing buildings.

St. Rose of Lima Hall was built to accommodate the rising demand for on-campus housing. This residence hall was designed and constructed to replicate St. Martin de Porres Hall, which reached LEED certification in 2008.

St. Rose of Lima boasts many energy-conserving features, the most notable of which include fiberglass windows and extensive insulation in the attic. Inside the building, sensors detect when residents are in the halls and common areas which keeps lights switched off unless necessary, in order to save energy. Occupant controls are also in place to manually turn off the lights in offices and meeting/multipurpose rooms. Interior lighting fixtures in St. Rose of Lima utilize linear fluorescent, compact fluorescent, and self-ballasted compact fluorescent lamps for energy efficiency.

In keeping with Aquinas’s Zero Waste Effort, waste stations consisting of recycling, composting, and trash are located in common areas of the building, with appropriate signage. In the lobby there is a special collections tower containing six bins for Styrofoam, e-waste, batteries, ink cartridges, Terracycle, and Goodwill donations. Laundry areas also include lint collection (compost) and a trash receptacle.

The project was awarded LEED for New Construction certification in July 2016.