LEED SPOTLIGHT

L. William Seidman Center (Grand Valley State University)
50 Front Ave. SW, Grand Rapids MI 49503
PROJECT PROFILE

Grand Valley State University (GVSU)’s $40 million project L. William Seidman Center was completed in 2013 and achieved LEED Gold certification. The center is located at 50 Front Ave SW in downtown Grand Rapids and is home to GVSU’s Seidman College of Business. GVSU strives to put sustainability in every university construction project, and LEED is a staple in this goal.

The university has a very proactive approach when incorporating LEED certification into their campus facilities. As a result, the structure that was originally set with the goal to achieve LEED Silver certification and instead accomplished LEED Gold.

The 127,643 square-foot structure was the 14th building to become LEED certified at GVSU. A total of 21 structures (more than 1.76 million square feet) have completed LEED certification. Three are currently in the construction phase and are being built to achieve certification and three more in programming. The Seidman Center was built on a Brownfield Site, a previously contaminated piece of land that was then remediated and reused in the urban area of downtown Grand Rapids. High performance building qualities are throughout the Seidman Center. A fog system is used in the building to control the humidity. The center also features a high efficiency variable air volume HVAC system with occupancy and CO2 sensors, a centralized humidification system, perimeter heating, and other methods. This was achieved without excessive costs and while meeting GVSU’s operations and maintenance requirements. With a collaborative & interdisciplinary design approach, GVSU applies a practical implementation of sustainable strategies. To continue their efforts beyond LEED certification, the campus engages the campus community in sustainable conversations at all levels.

LEED Facts
L. William Seidman Center

Location.........................Grand Rapids, MI
Rating System..................LEED-NC v2.2
Certification Achieved..............Gold
Points Achieved........................41/69

Sustainable Sites.........................9/14
Water Efficiency.......................3/5
Energy and Atmosphere.............10/17
Materials and Resources..........6/13
Indoor Environmental Quality.....8/15
Innovation and Design...............5/5

PROJECT METRICS

38% lower energy usage than the baseline ASHRAE standards
23,980 tons of reused concrete from the old warehouse on the former brownfield site
3,300 students utilizing the building
235,000 kilowatt-hour of electricity expected energy savings
69,200 expected cost reductions
318 metric tons/year estimated avoided CO2 emissions