AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, D.C.

University Policy: Green Building

Policy Category: Sustainability

Subject: Green Building

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Sustainability

Procedures: Green Building Guidelines

Related University Policies: American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment; Green Cleaning Policy; Sustainable Purchasing Policy; Talloires Declaration; Zero Waste Policy

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I. SCOPE

This policy supports the University's goal to manage its activities so that they have a positive impact on our environment, and it applies to all university owned and operated facilities.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Consistent with American University's strategic goal to "Act on our values through Social Responsibility and Service," and to facilitate implementation of our existing sustainability policies (as referenced above), the purpose of this policy is to protect and restore our environment by utilizing cleaning products and practices designed to: improve energy, water, and material efficiency; utilize renewable materials; enable the University to attain carbon-neutrality or net positive renewable energy production; eliminate waste, especially hazardous materials; enhance the physical campus environment; and protect and enhance the health of the University community.

III. DEFINITIONS

US Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED Standard: is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to promoting cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification program. LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for buildings designed, constructed and operated for improved environmental and human health performance, addressing all building types, and emphasizing state-of-the-art strategies in: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.

IV. POLICY

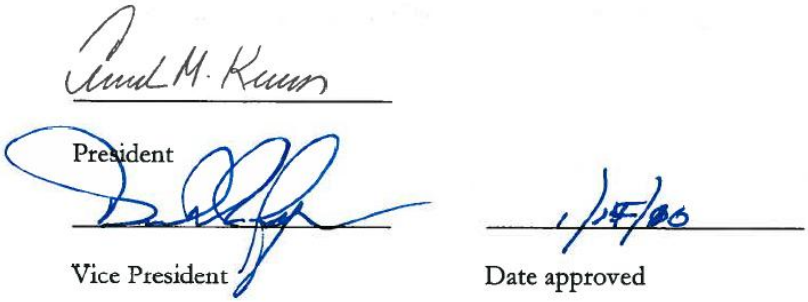
All construction, including new construction, major renovation, and major replacement/repair projects will be implemented to be equal to the US Green Building Council's LEED Silver, or better.

By May 2010, the Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with the Office of the University Architect, Facilities Management, Facilities Administration, Auxiliary Services, and Procurement and Contracts; and with advice from the Environmental Issues Project Team and the Climate Action Project Team, will develop procedures, plans and a timeline for implementing this policy.

V. FREQUENCY OF REVIEW AND UPDATE

Any party affected by this Policy may initiate review and update at any time. The Office of Sustainability will initiative review and update not more than two years from the effective date, or date of last review or update, whichever is most recent.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPROVAL

Signed by President Neil Kerwin and Vice President of Finance and Treasurer Don Myers January 15, 2010. Effective immediately.

This Policy is approved and effective upon signature by the offices listed below: