

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- » Supply energy for recharging electric vehicles.
- » Encourage the use of electric vehicles to potentially reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve air quality around campus.
- » Available for charging by any North Central College students, faculty, staff and approved guests.

Rain Gardens

- » Are shallow depressions that are planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses.
- » Allow rainwater runoff from impervious areas like downspouts, driveways, walkways or compacted lawns to be absorbed back into the water table.
- » Capture the runoff, filter pollutants and allow water to infiltrate deep into the ground to be used by nearby plants.
- » Reduce rainwater runoff from flowing into storm drains, which cause erosion, water pollution, flooding and diminished groundwater.
- » Are beautiful and create habitats for birds and beneficial insects.

Native Plants

- » Occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human intervention.
- » Require little maintenance once established, resisting damage from freezing, drought and common diseases.
- » Do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering because they are adapted to the local region.
- » Improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and moderating floods and droughts.
- » Increase biodiversity.
- » Remove CO₂ from the atmosphere by absorbing it and using it in photosynthesis.

Geothermal

- » Uses steady underground temperatures to heat and cool Res/Rec.
- » Contains 60 vertical underground loops, protruding 650 feet into the ground.
- » Eliminates need for natural gas lines.

LED Lighting

- » Stands for Light-Emitting Diode.
- » Is more efficient and long-lasting compared to other lighting options.
- » Does not produce heat, which makes incandescent bulbs hot to touch.
- » Does not contain any mercury and does not need "warm-up" time like fluorescent lights.

Permeable Pavers

- » Are comprised of layers of stone that allow water to infiltrate otherwise impermeable ground, controlling storm water at the source, filtering pollutants and reducing runoff.
- » Filter pollutants picked up by water running over paved surfaces. Such pollutants include oil, salt, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, sediment, and other contaminants that should not be in our freshwater.
- » Reduce water runoff, replenishing the water table and local aquifers, improving storm water management.

Community Garden

- » Is organic, which means no synthetic herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers are used.
- » Uses water from the spring-fed pond on campus for irrigation.
- » Provides produce from many of the plots to be served in Kaufman Dining Hall.
- » Is for students, faculty, staff and community members to rent plots to grow their own garden!

Composting

- » Food scraps are collected and turned into compost to be used in the Campus Community Garden.
- » Kaufman composts nearly 37 tons of food scraps annually.
- » The Cage offers compostable flatware, napkins and plates.

DuPage County Adopt-A-Stream

- » Partnered with the College to adopt a section of the DuPage River, which borders campus, student and staff volunteers do two cleanups per year.
- » Keeps rivers healthy, clean and attractive.
- » Reduces debris polluting and clogging of waterways.

Res/Rec: LEED Silver Certification

- » Geothermal heating and cooling system.
- » Precast building envelope.
- » Energy-efficient windows and lighting.
- » White membrane roof.
- » Water-efficient fixtures.
- » Solar PV panels and energy storage system.

Solar Installations

- » 30 solar thermal panels atop New Hall consist of evacuated tubes, which use the sun's energy to heat 30% of the domestic water needs for the building.
- » 1,632 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an energy storage system (ESS) atop the Res/Rec Center. This system provides 22% of the building's electricity.

New Science Center: Built to LEED Silver Standards

Rain gardens, permeable pavers and native plants

Greenhouse with a 1,000 gallon rainwater collection cistern to water plants, reducing the use of potable use.

White membrane roof

Low volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Energy-efficient windows. Windows on the west side of the building feature electrochromic glass, which senses the solar heat coming through the windows and automatically adjusts the tint of the glass.

Energy-efficient lighting and occupancy sensors

High efficiency HVAC system

Low-flow fixtures

Other sustainability features throughout campus

Water bottle refilling stations

Red bike program

Office composting

Recycling collection

- » North Central College offers recycling of items beyond the commingled recycling program. Such items include electronics, plastic bags, granola bar wrappers, batteries, carpet, etc.

