Green and Sustainable Initiatives in the Academic Commons

There are countless green and sustainable initiatives in the Anderson Academic Commons. These efforts increase efficiency, reuse or recycle materials, and make the building healthier for occupants. They have enabled us to achieve LEED silver certification, which we celebrated in April 2015.

- **Efficiency**
  - All new high efficiency heating and cooling system
  - All faucets and toilets are water conserving.
  - High efficiency light fixtures throughout the building
  - Light fixtures operate on occupancy sensors in group study rooms and offices
  - Windows use low-e glass

- **Reduce/ Reuse / Recycle**
  - Over 47,000 linear feet of shelving from the former library’s book stacks were reused in new high-density shelving on the lower level.
  - Thousands of pieces of furniture from the former library – roughly 4,000 pieces (over two thirds of our total furniture) – were cleaned, refurbished and repurposed for the new library.
  - Recycled materials are used where possible, such as in some of the flooring and in the copper composite facing on the building.
  - Book deliveries to/from the Hampden Center (library storage facility) are made with a Prius hybrid vehicle.
  - Scanning of articles and book chapters at the Hampden Center decrease the need for campus delivery of books and other physical materials to campus.
  - Construction waste is recycled.
  - Compact, high-density shelving is manual rather than motorized.

- **Encouraging green behaviors**
  - Dishwashers in staff break areas reduce the use of paper and plastic products for meetings and staff events.
  - Water bottle refilling stations are incorporated into water fountains.
  - Many recycling stations make recycling easy.
  - Abundant bike racks outside the Academic Commons promote green commuting.
  - A reservable shower is available for commuters.
  - Stairwells throughout the building encourage walking over using the elevator.

- **Healthy building**
  - Compared to our former library, a huge increase in natural light from new windows, a clerestory, and opening up the floor plan allow light to flow throughout.
  - Updated HVAC
  - Complete asbestos abatement from the former building.
  - Operable windows in some areas.

- **Food service**
  - The Front Porch Café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner featuring locally sourced food as much as possible. The next level of sourcing is “Colorado proud” and sourced from Colorado organic farmers.
  - Composting and recycling are available.

- **Public Good**
  - The Library hosts donation bins for “public good initiatives” that encourage recycling of batteries, printer cartridges, books, clothing and more.