

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

ENERGY EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION

~~Use of energy efficient construction will be a high priority. The proposed project which contains the most efficient energy saving plans within an acceptable budget will have highest priority.~~

The Albemarle County School Board is committed to designing and constructing its facilities in a manner that minimize impacts to the environment, reduces contributions to global climate change while increasing resiliency to its effects, and provides healthy learning environments for thriving students.

A. Definitions

- The Virginia “High Performance Building Act” (HB2001) is a law requiring that all state/public buildings in the commonwealth be designed and constructed according to high performance standards.
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or “LEED” is a rating system for the design, construction, and maintenance of green buildings created by the U.S. Green Building Council
- “Green Globes” is a rating system for the design, construction, and maintenance of sustainable buildings created by the Green Building Institute
- The Virginia Energy Conservation and Environmental Standards abbreviated “VEES” is a set of prescriptive practices for the design and construction of sustainable buildings based on the International Green Construction Code.
- “EnergyStar” is a program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S Department of Energy that promotes energy efficiency.
- “Net Zero Ready” buildings are designed and built to meet a certain level of energy efficiency so that if a renewable energy system were installed, the building would then produce as much energy as it consumes.

A.B. Sustainable Design and Construction

All reasonable efforts will be made to adhere to the School Board facilities development goals, as outlined in Board Policy FA, when designing, constructing and renovating facilities by implementing the following standards:

1. In compliance with Virginia’s High Performance Buildings Act, new buildings and major renovations – defined as greater than 20,000 ft² or where renovation costs exceed 50% of the value of the building - shall be certified by LEED – current version - Silver, Two Green Globes, or VEES standards. Project design committees, in consultation with the project architect/engineer, shall determine which building certification program best meets the project requirements and shall ensure the final building meets or exceeds certification requirements. In the absence of a design committee, the Director of Building Services shall decide which certification standard to use.

2. New construction, renovations, or incremental upgrades totaling less than 20,000 ft², but greater than 5,000 ft² will meet Energy Star certification requirements outlined in Virginia's High Performance Building Act.
3. Newly constructed buildings and additions greater than 20,000 ft² will be designed and constructed to be net-zero ready, with regards to carbon emissions associated with energy consumption.
4. The following sustainable practices shall be incorporated into the design of new buildings, renovations, and incremental improvements to existing buildings regardless of the building certification standard chosen to meet the requirements of HB2001.
 - a. All new buildings, renovations, and incremental upgrades, regardless of project size, will be designed and constructed in alignment with the ACPS Building Services' Design and Construction Standards Manual.
 - b. New buildings and additions will be designed to optimize rooftop space and load capacity for future solar arrays.
 - c. New buildings and additions will prioritize elimination of onsite combustion of fossil fuels for any purpose except for a conventionally fueled backup generator if no other feasible option for backup electricity generation can be implemented.
 - d. Energy-saving designs shall be documented in the architectural evaluation and shall comply with educational specifications as determined by the State Department of Education and approved by the School Board.

4.5. The Building Services Department will maintain accurate records of third-party building certifications.

~~A continuous study of energy use shall be maintained by the administration for future planning in new construction and renovations.~~

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: May 26, 2005; October 11, 2012; April 27, 2017

Legal Refs.:

- Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§22.1-70, 22.1-78
- Code of Virginia, §2.2-1182, 2.2-1183

Cross Refs:

- FEH, *Energy Management & Conservation*
- EBAC, *Environmental Management*

- FA, *Building and Naming Facilities*