



UVU's new library opened in July 2008 and was the first building to be constructed under the state's High Performance Building program.

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Preparing students to become stewards of a globally interdependent community

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION:
OREM, UT

FOUNDED:
1941

ENROLLMENT:
27,000+

**ENROLLMENT
GROWTH IN PAST
YEAR:**
10%

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1941, UTAH VALLEY University (UVU) has been committed to operating in a sustainable environment. "We have a unique pioneer heritage here," says Denny Rucker, director of engineering for UVU. "Our university founders foresaw the desire to maintain a sustainability side. Before people started talking about green, this campus was committed to being green, conserving what we use and what we have." UVU's mission statement addresses that, stating, "The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as lifelong learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community."

"Our mission drives what happens here," says Liz Hitch, vice president of academic affairs. "If you want your students to be stewards of a globally interdependent community, you have to show them ways they might do that. One of the ways in which they're attentive to being a world citizen is to be aware of the natural resources we have and how you protect them and not use them up over time. The mission of the institution

is what drives us to have an interest in that." As part of this mission, UVU focuses on energy, water, and waste conservation on campus.

BUILDING AND DESIGN

UVU's new library opened on July 1, 2008 as the first building to be constructed under the state's new High Performance Building program. It offers various architectural features designed with sustainability in mind, including heat-reflection technology, free-cycle ventilation, evaporative cooling, light shelving, automatic light monitors, and extra insulation. Total savings from the sustainable practices equals approximately 2,009,333 kilowatt hours annually, or nearly \$133,823.

DINING SERVICES

UVU's dining services actively participates in the university-wide recycling program—reducing waste paper, cardboard, and aluminum. It recently acquired a state-of-the-art Hobart Flight Automatic Dishwasher that reduces water consumption up to 66 percent and energy consumption by 75 percent. Additionally, it partners with a local corporation to recycle the used deep-fry oil into animal feed.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

For nearly 40 years, UVU used geothermal wells to heat and cool buildings around campus. Underneath the campus lays a large aquifer where water stays at a relatively constant temperature throughout the year. The water is pumped up a well on one side of campus, warms the air, and then is pumped back into the aquifer on the other side of campus. The use of the earth's natural warmth reduces the need to burn natural gas and

creates a pollution-free heating system. When in use, UVU saves 14.4 million BTUs of natural gas, or 14,400 cubic feet of gas, for every hour of operation.

Even UVU's technology and software is selected strategically for efficiency, when possible. One example is in the library, which recently dropped its old two-server library-automation system in favor of a new system (powered by SirsiDynix), allowing it to run both the main system functions and Web access off of a single server. Now, with both functionalities available on the same machine at any given point, more energy is conserved.

RECYCLING

UVU's commitment to recycling is exemplified through its acquisition of a new bailer, collection of cardboard and paper products, use of recycled plastics in its carpets, and promotion of surplus sales to the public.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

UVU receives its irrigation water directly from local reservoirs that flow naturally to the university without pumping. This water is stored in two large ponds (which double as reflection ponds) in the southwest corner of campus.

Two years ago, UVU formed a Sustainability Committee to coordinate these and future sustainability efforts. "This was an opportunity to bring together people from the facility side with those on the academic side and other staff areas who were interested in what we can do to support sustainability efforts," Hitch says. "It's a great forum to share ideas and push ahead on different initiatives."

Rucker, who chairs the committee, says these initiatives wouldn't have been possible without university-wide support. "It's not a one-person job," he says. "We depend on students, faculty, and staff in forging ahead with sustainability initiatives. We really appreciate their help in getting us to where we are today." GBQ

A MESSAGE FROM ALSPECTOR ARCHITECTURE

Alspector Architecture is a full-service architectural and interior design firm devoted to collaboration with clients in the creation of durable, sustainable, functional, and beautiful designs. We focus on creative and responsible problem solving based on the timeless principles of architecture: firmness, commodity, and delight. www.alspectorarchitecture.com.

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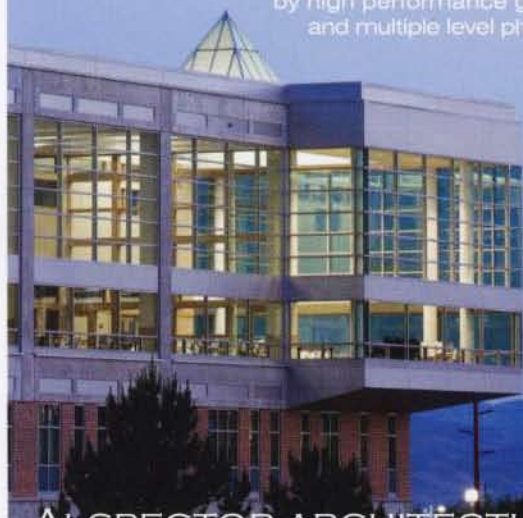
—Denny Rucker, Director of Engineering

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Utah Valley University, Digital Learning Center
sustainable, high performance, award winning architecture

“... the **greenest** building in Utah”

While providing clear, scenic views out to the site's surrounding heroic-scaled landscape, the building incorporates sustainable, low-energy design features such as exterior light shelves and perimeter daylight harvesting enhanced by high performance glass, skylights and multiple level photocell control.



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