



U.S. Forest Service
Southern Research Station
200 W.T. Weaver Boulevard
Asheville, NC 28804-3454

Fact Sheet

Bent Creek Conference Center Fact Sheet

The 6,587 square foot Bent Creek Conference Center has been designed to achieve the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. LEED certification is based on ratings in 5 major areas of sustainable design and construction. These areas are sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy efficiency, material and resource selection, and indoor environmental quality.

The following features are incorporated into the Bent Creek Conference Center.

- The \$1 million facility will provide conference and training space for 50 persons and office space for 5 permanent Forest Service employees.
- Use of 7 small, highly-efficient HVAC split systems to allow zoned heating and cooling of occupied spaces. When the conference room is not in use, that area of the building can be isolated to lower heating and cooling demands.
- A heat recovery unit will provide for additional energy efficiency.
- Use of energy-efficient light fixtures and lighting control systems. Daylight and occupancy sensors will be used to reduce artificial lighting levels when natural light is present and/or turn off light fixtures in unoccupied areas of the building.
- Natural light is provided to all workspaces to reduce the demand for artificial lighting.
- A reflective roof system will reduce heat gain during the summer, thus reducing the air conditioning load for the building.
- Increased building envelope insulation will increase energy efficiency.
- Insulated windows and doors will increase energy efficiency.
- Minimal site disturbance by establishing clearing limits no more than 40 feet beyond the building perimeter, 10 feet beyond parking areas and utility corridors, and 15 feet beyond roads and driveways.
- Erosion control measures to control storm water run-off and silting in nearby streams.
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures will significantly reduce potable water use.
- Native plants for landscaping eliminates need for irrigation system.
- Extensive use of local and regional materials that will reduce the amount of fossil fuel used for material transportation.
- Extensive use of building materials manufactured from recycled materials.
- Less than 25 percent of all construction waste will be sent to the local landfill. Waste will be recycled or reused on other projects.
- Low volatile organic content of building materials, paints, caulks, and adhesives will contribute to indoor air quality.
- No ozone-depleting refrigerants will be used in building systems.
- All workspaces will have operable windows to allow occupants access to fresh outdoor air.