

2026 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

A Student-Led LEED Career Readiness Initiative in a Building Systems Course

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Project Description

Our team partnered with the **CSUS Office of Sustainability** to connect coursework with real campus building systems. We initiated a preliminary LEED O+M assessment for Douglass Hall.

Objectives

- Connect building systems coursework to real-world application
- Introduce LEED certification as a career pathway
- Develop student skills in sustainability assessment and collaboration

Project Highlights


This project involved approximately one faculty instructor, one student lead, and three staff members from the Office of Sustainability.

Accomplishments

- Initiated first steps toward a LEED O+M assessment for Douglass Hall
- Developed a grant proposal to expand the initiative
- Applied learning to a design-build competition, demonstrating career readiness

Experiential Learning for Career Readiness & Civic Impact

- **Academic Success:** Applied HVAC, lighting, and performance metrics to campus building systems, strengthening understanding of course concepts
- **Career Readiness:** Built skills in LEED standards, systems thinking, professional communication, and project development
- **Civic Engagement:** Connected student work to campus sustainability goals and institutional impact
- **Asset-Based Approach:** Leveraged student initiative, faculty mentorship, and staff expertise as shared strengths
- **Equity & Access:** Embedded in a required course, ensuring all students had access to experiential learning opportunities

Douglass Hall Information			
	Building #: 4	Building Tag: DH	
	Gross Area: 22,700 Sq.Ft.	61.3 KBTU/SQFT-YR	
	Year Built: Feb 1959	EUI: 61.3 KBTU/SQFT-YR	
	Connected to Campus Steam: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Estimated Heating Load:	Total Gas Load:	
	340,500 BTUH	51,075 BTUH	
Total Gas Load:	Estimated Heating Load:	Total Gas Load:	
391,575 BTUH	341 CFH	392 CFH	
Total Gas Load:	51 CFH	51 CFH	
Hours per Year:	2400	9,398 Therm/Yr	
Building Type:	22,700	Building Type:	Classroom - General
GSF:		EUI:	61.3

Campus Community Impact

This project supported campus sustainability efforts through the exploration of LEED O+M opportunities, strengthened collaboration between academic programs and operational units, and involved students in real-world sustainable building performance assessment efforts.

- **Students:** Gained hands-on experience and career direction in sustainable design
- **Faculty:** Integrated applied, career-connected learning into curriculum
- **Staff:** Engaged students in real campus sustainability initiatives

Collaborative Process

- Students applied course knowledge and led initiative development
- Faculty provided mentorship and structure
- Sustainability staff offered technical expertise and site access

Reflections

Student: "This experience made building systems real and showed me a path into sustainable design."

Faculty: "Student curiosity became a meaningful, career-connected project through collaboration."

Staff: "Partnerships like this strengthen both campus operations and student learning."