A Gateway for Science and Sustainability

Greer Environmental Sciences Center | Virginia Wesleyan University

VMDO

"We are using this facility to promote an ethic of sustainability on our campus. In classes and casual interactions, students and visitors learn more about sustainability and the environment. This facility has also allowed us to attract students in this field. Once they are here, we aim to provide a transformative education, using the building's educational and sustainable features."
- Dr. Maynard Schaus, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vision: The Greer Environmental Sciences Center embodies Virginia Wesleyan University's commitment to environmental sustainability for a thriving, cross-disciplinary sciences program.

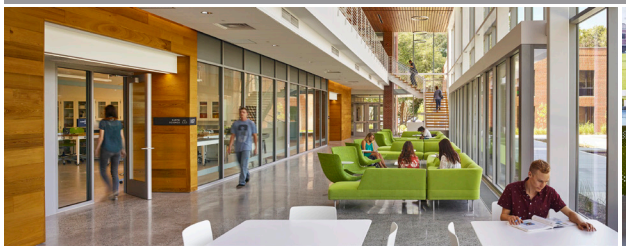
Process: Providing an experience-based environmental sciences program, the Greer Environmental Sciences Center invigorates and expands research, engagement, and learning opportunities at the academic crossroads of the University. During design, the project team focused on ways to tie specific building features to a range of courses, faculty projects, and collaborations with a network of Chesapeake Bay environmental partners—which has resulted in increased research projects between students, faculty, and community partners.

Outcomes: The Center creates an inspiring sense of place that physically and programmatically bridges disciplines, offers a welcoming portal to students, and invites the study of local ecology through immediately-accessible, hands-on opportunities. The Center has transformed life on campus—expanding undergraduate research and raising VWU's campus and student profile.

Programs

- Active Classrooms
- Faculty Offices
- Laboratories
- Group Studies

Serving as a Portal for Community and Connection



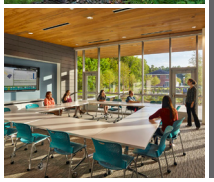
Immersing Students in Science

Partnerships

Chesapeake Bay Foundation — Saving a National Treasure

whro Public Media

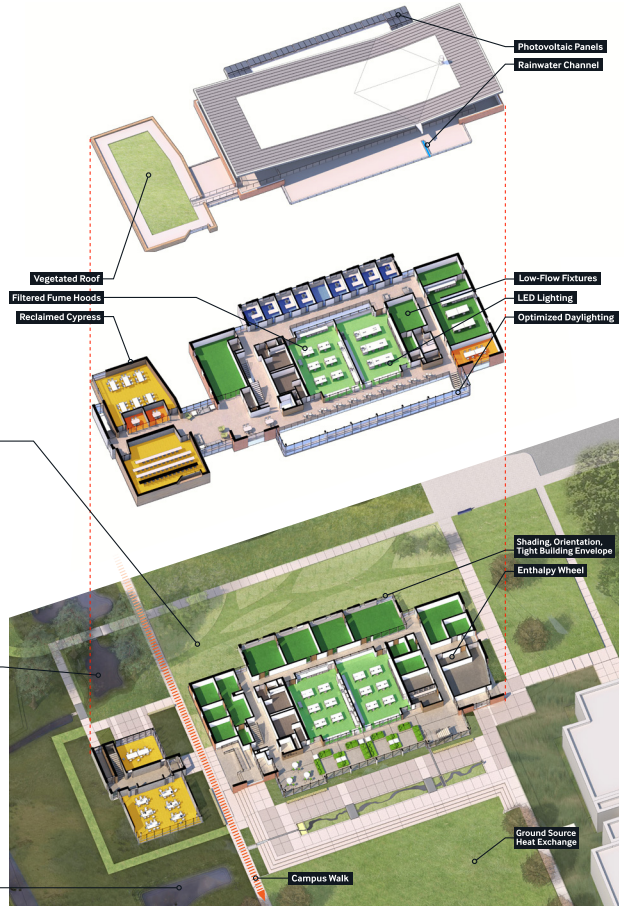
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center



POLLINATOR MEADOW

BALD CYPRESS GROVE

WETLAND GARDEN



Building as a Teaching Tool