

## **Nova Scotia Community College**

80 Mawiomi Place, Dartmouth

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www.nsc.ca

### **Introduction**

Touring the new community college on the Dartmouth waterfront could tempt anyone to return to school! The 275 770<sup>2</sup> foot building was constructed according to the LEED rating system (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and is scheduled to open to students in September 2007.

### **Energy and Water Conservation**

The most obvious and beautiful energy saving feature of the college is the wall of glass that extends across all five levels and allows for a magnificent view of the harbour. Not only does it let in natural light and create an inspiring atmosphere for learning, it also allows for passive solar energy. Equipped with special coated panels, the building collects heat from the sun in the floor during the day and at night automated blinds come down to cover the windows and hold in the heat.

Most of the lights in the building are set to automated motion sensors and only turn on when they sense activity. The natural lighting in the building greatly reduces the need for electric lighting as well.



Energy is supplied by the steam plant at the Nova Scotia Hospital, eliminating the need for fossil fuels on campus. With all the energy saving features used in the building there is a total energy savings of nearly 50%.

All toilets are low-flush and the taps are on an automated timer to reduce water consumption.

## **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

During the construction of the building, more than 90% of the waste was diverted from the landfill. The drywall is made of 98% recycled material rather than gypsum that is typically used.

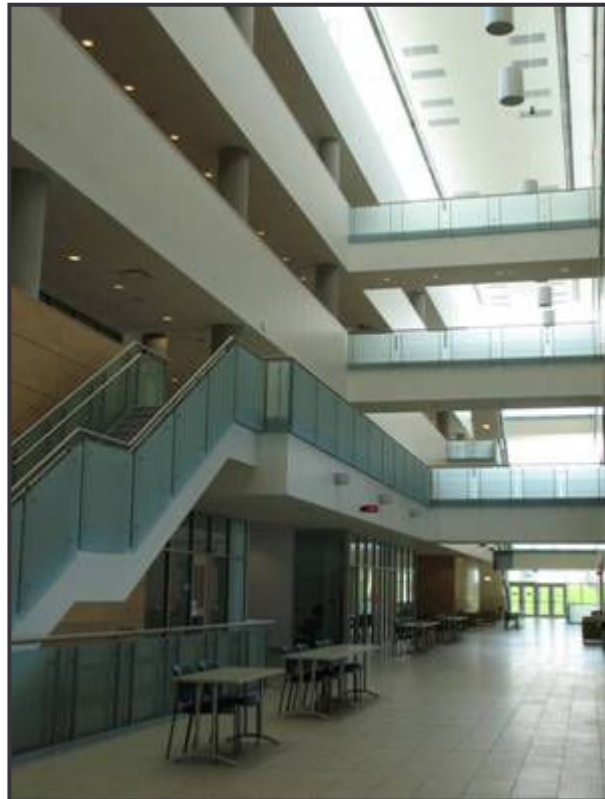
The college is taking a very active approach to encouraging waste management and recycling on campus. Recycling bins are a common sight around the building. They are even planning on supplying all the students and staff with their own coffee mugs to hopefully reduce coffee cup waste.

## **Air Quality**

Only low-emission interior carpets, paints, adhesives and sealants were used.

## **Sustainable Transportation**

There will be over 1800 students and faculty but only 350 parking spaces. This will encourage people to carpool and use other forms of transportation like taking the bus, the ferry, or biking. The college is trying to arrange for increased bus service to the college and there is a beautiful walking trail that runs along the waterfront directly from the ferry terminal to the college. The college is also installing bike racks outside the building.



## **Problems Encountered**

There will be a learning curve for the staff and the students in September as they adjust to automatic lights, an intensive recycling system, and limited parking spaces, but it will also serve as a positive educational experience. The college is going to be a non-smoking environment to ensure high air quality and this is bound to create some complaints.

## **Encouraging Community Involvement**

There will be huge energy savings because of the building's sustainable properties. The staff love working in such a bright and beautiful building and are proud to work in a building that is so environmentally sustainable. There have also been efforts to include the surrounding community in the project. A number of the building's facilities will be made accessible to the community including the library, the presentation theatre, food court, meeting rooms and classrooms. Public washrooms are also being installed outside the college near the trail for public use. The community is also very excited about the possibility of increased bus service to the area.