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# LRCP Programming: Commons, Sustainability & Greening Draft

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## **LRCP 3.0 Programming: Summary Recommendations Commons, Greening and Sustainability**

Nov 18, 2015

This document summarizes recommendations for programming Commons, Greening and Sustainability dimensions of UC Hastings' new academic building at 333 Golden Gate. These recommendations flow from research of UC Hastings community needs, best practices for sustainable, livable campus development and the evolving statutory framework related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Research consisted of a campus-wide survey, visits to other local campuses and discussions in the Long Range Campus Plan 3.0 Programming workgroup comprised of representatives from faculty, staff and student constituencies. Research findings are contextualized by institutional best practices, directives from University of California, California State Government and municipal guidelines.

### **First Principles**

The LRCP 3.0 aspires to recreate UC Hastings built environment over ten years as a carbon neutral "cool-island" research lab with highest level of LEED certifications available given constraints of capital, technology and existent structures. Aggressive reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) & Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) emissions<sup>1</sup> and conservation of fresh water are prioritized. Reliance upon increasing greenspace and maximizing San Francisco's maritime Mediterranean climate regime will create a welcoming, lively and functional academic environment.

333 Golden Gate Ave academic building affords the opportunity to reinforce UC Hastings' bold and innovative brand through visual and spatial expression of these principles to daylight the College's environmental stewardship and climate resilience efforts.

In design and construction of Commons, Academic Space, Student Space, Facilities & Operations Systems the following should be maximized:

- Access to natural light and air
- Water conservation and re-use
- Abundant living plants and trees
- Arcades, sky bridges, plazas, terraces, gardens and patios are offered to effectively connect outdoors and indoors in healthy, energetic flow
- Human-scaled neighborhood presence
- Supports for bicycle and public transit commuters
- Modularity and interoperability of technology

Application of these recommendations in 333 Golden Gate will provide crucial learning in preparation for design and construction of student housing at 198 McAllister/ 50 Hyde St.



## Domain-specific Recommendations

Each domain below assumes application of general principles above in addition to needs indicated by its particular function and service audience.

### Commons

- Replace or exceed the existent green open space<sup>2</sup> with roof decks, plazas, patios, arcades and terraces distributed through the building and connecting rest of campus.
  - Beach: 9,600 GSF, 15% moderate canopy
  - Demonstration Gardens: 11,000 GSF, 45% complex canopy
- Include recreation (running, weight training, meditation zones) in roof decks
- Limit footprint and noise pollution to roof decks from mechanicals on roof
- Limit light pollution from landscape and security lighting
- Include water, light and wind features as environmental art installations
- Support bicycle and public transit commuters with showers and lockers
- Expression of service ethic and legacy of school in care and respect for natural environment

### Academic Space

- “Right-size” rooms for changing enrollment & usage projections
- Flexible, multi-use spaces
- Use of repurposed or renewable building materials (eg. Eucalyptus, Acacia)
- Installation of passive and zonal environmental controls
- Inclusion of natural light, air and greenery in or near learning spaces
- Modular, interoperable technology that supports multiple pathways for teaching & learning
- Support calm, focused learning environment with maximal access to fresh air, natural light

### Student Space

- Incorporate physical recreation in outdoor spaces (eg running track surrounded by garden) to increase health and productivity
- Create sense of continuity (permeability) with surrounding professional legal community through shared public & alumni spaces where practical
- Support esprit d’corps in student body by demonstrating values & commitment to environmental stewardship in physical spaces and art
- Reduce depression and anxiety through sense of belonging in natural cycles by incorporation of horizontal and vertical gardens, indoors and out



## Facilities & Operations Systems

- Robust water reclamation and re-use system captures carbon in greening and increases drought resilience
- Prepare for Interoperability with alternative utilities grid that will support resilience from climate change and mitigate GHG & SLCP emissions to 2030 and 2050 trajectory as per State law.<sup>3</sup>
- Centralized system for environmental controls with distributed monitoring, tracking & reporting for integrated adaptive management program **Sustainable UC Hastings**
- Modular, Open Standards technology and equipment
- Platinum LEED certification through built environment and culture of professional development

## Conclusion

These admittedly ambitious goals are achievable by leveraging advanced planning horizon in a coordinated effort that this building project offers. This will produce the economies of scale, esprit d'corp and innovation required to dramatically reduce GHG and SLCP emissions to levels required of the College by good citizenship. Dedication to the work will improve not only our built environment on campus but overall quality of life for UC Hastings community and our neighbors.

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<sup>1</sup> University of California: “Bending the Curve” 2015 available from:  
[http://universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/Bending\\_the\\_Curve\\_F5\\_spread\\_s.pdf](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/Bending_the_Curve_F5_spread_s.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Sustainable UC Hastings: Open Space Inventory –Initial Study for EIR Nov 2015 available from:  
<http://uchastings.edu/about/leadership/strategic-plan/lrcp/resources/UC-Hastings-Open-Space-Inventory.pdf#UC%20Hastings%20Open%20Space%20Inventory>

<sup>3</sup> SFPUC, Sustainable Utilities District Plan, 2015 available from:  
<http://www.sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=739#Civic%20Center%20Sustainable%20Utilities%20District%20Plan>