



Central College Pods

Pella, IA

Location: 1203 Independence Street, Pella

Design: RDG Design & Planning

Type of Construction: New

Construction Cost: \$1,733,211

Square Footage: 9,960

Cost per Square Foot: \$174

Project Website: pods.centralcollege.greentouchscreen.com

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Project Description: In 2005 Central College finished construction of a 48-bed, 10,000 square-foot addition to its “Pods” residence hall. Referred to as “Phase II,” this is the first “eco-dorm” on Central’s campus. The project earned LEED Gold certification and was the first LEED certified residential facility in Iowa. Each “pod” is made up of four two-student rooms that share a common space, kitchenette, laundry room and bathrooms. The new addition also includes a computer lab with six workstations. Each room is furnished using recycled or rapidly renewable materials and each unit is equipped with energy-efficient appliances.

Sustainable Features:

- Located in close proximity to existing development and infrastructure
- Two rain gardens absorb all building and site runoff, depositing purified water back into the aquifer and native vegetation surrounds the site to eliminate the need for irrigation
- Water-saving dual flush toilets and low-flow sinks and



showers

- Exterior lighting designed to prevent light pollution
- Covered bicycle storage facility fitted with solar panels that put renewable energy into the building's grid
- Highly efficient Pella windows reduce energy used on heating and cooling and provide extra comfort for residents
- Energy recovery system exchanges air and controls moisture, creating a healthier environment and saving energy used on heating and cooling
- Wind power was purchased to provide half of the building's electricity for two years
- Air conditioning automatically switches off when windows are opened
- 50% of construction debris was salvaged or recycled and 20% of building materials were manufactured within 500 miles of the construction site
- On-site recycling collection
- Furniture and fixtures as well as many building materials made from recycled or rapidly renewable materials
- Low-VOC paints, adhesives, composition board and carpet tiles provide a healthier indoor environment for residents
- Energy performance exceeds stringent energy codes by 34%
- Direct line of site to the outdoors for 90% of resident spaces

