

How to prepare YOUR SUBMISSION

- Your project need NOT be registered with any third-party green building rating system to be eligible for this awards program,
- Your project must be **located in Canada**, and
- Projects are judged based on criteria of sustainable design, architectural merit and innovation.

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN PDF FORMAT, AND THERE ARE TWO PARTS:

Please submit Part 1 and Part 2 as separate pdf files.

- Part 1 contains the Project Description including your text, photos and drawings.
- Part 2 contains the Payment Form and the Identification Form.

Send to lcadieux@sabmagazine.com.
(We suggest using We transfer or Dropbox)

FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:

- Eligible projects must have been completed between January 1, 2023 and February 28, 2026.
- **Your firm or company must be identified only in the Part 2 Identification Form, not in the Part 1 Project Description.**
- Provide photos and plan, section and elevation drawings sufficient to convey the intent of the design. Environmental building sections showing ventilation, natural lighting, and heating/cooling patterns will also be useful to the jury, but are not mandatory.
- Please keep the file size of your submission to a maximum of 10mb, but there is no limit on the number of pages you may include
- Your Project Description text along with related photos and drawings may be combined in graphically designed page presentations.

2026

CANADIAN GREEN BUILDING AWARDS

THE NATIONAL PROGRAM OF
SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE
& BUILDING MAGAZINE

SABMag

Jury

Mona Lemoine, Architect AIBC, FRAIC, LEED AP BD+C, LFA Regenerative Practitioner RELi AP, Senior Sustainability Consultant, Associate/Sustainability + Building Performance, DIALOG

Drew Adams, BES (planning), MArch, OAA, RAIC Principal of Studio ADO

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Sustainable Development Manager, Jodoin Lamarre Pratte architectes

Schedule

- **Deadline for submissions March 6, 2026**
- **Judging date March 13, 2026**

Recognition

- Special SABMag Awards Issue Summer 2026 containing the winning projects
- Further visibility for winners on the SABMag website, www.sabmagazine.com; each winning project also published in the SABMag monthly e-News, in a dedicated e-Blast, and display boards for each winning project shown at various venues and trade shows during the year.
- All projects submitted will be considered for publishing in SABMag and in SABMag/CAGBC FOCUS publications.

PART 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Use for all categories. Projects are judged based on criteria of sustainable design, architectural merit and innovation. **Please submit Part 1 and Part 2 as separate pdf files.**

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PROJECT CATEGORIES

Identify which Award category you are entering

☐

1. Residential [small]

Open to new or renovated buildings less than 600m² in area, of which a minimum of 75% is dedicated to single-family or multi-family residential uses.

☐

2. Residential [large]

Open to new or renovated buildings [typically multi-unit buildings or groups of related buildings] greater than 600m² in area, of which at least 75% is dedicated to residential uses.

☐

3. Commercial/Industrial [small]

Open to new or renovated buildings up to 2,000m² in area, of which more than 75% is dedicated to commercial or industrial uses.

☐

4. Commercial/Industrial [large]

Open to new or renovated buildings [or groups of related buildings] greater than 2,000m² in area, of which at least 75% of the floor area is dedicated to commercial or industrial uses.

☐

5. Institutional [small]

Open to new or renovated buildings up to 2,000m² in area, of which more than 75% is dedicated to institutional uses.

☐

6. Institutional [large]

Open to new or renovated buildings [or groups of buildings] greater than 2,000m² in area, of which at least 75% of the floor area is dedicated to institutional uses.

☐

7. Mixed Use

Open to new or renovated buildings [or groups of related buildings] of any size, in which no individual use exceeds 75% of the overall floor area.

☐

8. Existing Building Upgrade

Open to buildings of any size or type in which the primary focus of the work has been to enhance the performance or extend the life of an existing structure. Entries in this category are required to respond only to the submission criteria appropriate to the project.

☐

9. Interior Design

Open to interior design projects of any size or type. Entries in this category are required to respond only to the submission criteria appropriate to the project.

An award will be given in each category at the discretion of the jury.

>> PROJECT DETAILS

Project name: _____

Address: _____

Year completed: _____

PROGRAM AND CONTEXT

Project type: [Identify all uses occupying 10% or more of gross floor area]

Project site: [Check all that apply]

☐ Previously undeveloped land ☐ Urban ☐ Rural

☐ Previously developed land ☐ Suburban

Other Building description: [Check only one]

☐ New ☐ Renovation ☐ Both [If both, list ☐% new and ☐% renovation]

METRICS* Provide the following information as applicable to your project.

- Site Area: _____ m²
- Building gross floor area: _____ m²

Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

This key metric measures the total energy consumption of a building per unit of gross floor area per year. This figure includes heating, cooling, lighting and operating equipment such as computers and elevators. For industrial and commercial buildings with specific processing equipment, identify this separately from the basic EUI figure.

- Building EUI = _____ kWh/m²/year
- Process EUI (if appropriate) = _____ kWh/m²/year
- Reduction in EUI relative to reference building = _____ % please specify the standard used (ASHRAE/MNECB or other)
- State reference standard: _____

- Recycled materials content: _____ % by value
- Construction materials diverted from landfill: _____ %
- Regional materials by value: _____
- Water consumption from municipal source: _____ litres/occupant/year

[Include both base building and process consumption]

- Reduction in water consumption: _____ %
- State the reference on which the % reduction is based: ☐ LEED or other ☐

*NOTE FOR PART 9 RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS: PROVIDE THE STATISTICS ABOVE IF AVAILABLE. Include in the Executive Summary [see next page] the EnerGuide or the Home Energy Rating System [HERS] ratings if available, and the WalkScore rating [see www.walkscore.com]. Also, a qualitative assessment of project performance should be included in the appropriate sections of the narrative.

PART 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Your firm, and others involved in the project, should not be identified in the Part 1 Project Description. Please submit Part 1 and Part 2 as separate pdf files.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In 200 words or less, describe:

- The project program and function, building type, and context
- Any special features or constraints that influenced the design.
- The sustainable design strategies [up to five] that are important to the success of the project.
- If your project is designed to any LEED Canada or Passive House rating systems, or other rating systems.

For Part 9 residential projects, include the EnerGuide or the Home Energy Rating System [HERS] ratings if available, and the Walkscore rating which can be determined at www.walkscore.com.

MAIN PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Fill in each section below that applies to your project. A description is provided for each section as a guide. Each section of the project description may be accompanied by up to four graphics or tables illustrating the key sustainable principles or data. The total project description [sections 1 - 10] should not exceed 1,000 words in length.

1. Strategic Decisions

Sustainable design embraces the ecological, economic, and social circumstances of a project. Explain how these circumstances influenced decisions such as site selection, building placement and orientation and program organization. Describe the passive design strategies at work in the building, and how active systems are employed to enhance their performance.

2. Community

Describe as appropriate, how the project enhances the public realm,, encourages community interaction and supports community resiliency. Explain how the project reduces automobile travel, including choice of location; use of any alternative local or regional transportation strategies; as well as any successful efforts to reduce locally mandated parking requirements.

3. Site Ecology

Describe how site design strategies work to preserve, rehabilitate or enhance natural ecosystems including details of the approach taken to landscape, water management, planting and habitat creation. Indicate whether these strategies are contained within the project site, or extend beyond the site boundary. If appropriate, include a brief description of how these strategies fit within the scale of a neighbourhood, community or regional plan.

4. Light and Air

Describe the day lighting and fresh air ventilation strategies, and how the building design and operation maximizes the effectiveness of both. Indicate the percentage of the occupied floor area that is within 7 metres of an operable window. Describe the devices/technologies used to reduce the energy consumption of the lighting system, and the projected annual energy consumption of the system in KWhr/m². Quantify the provision of fresh air in air changes per hour.

5. Wellness

Describe how the design of the project addresses our understanding of how buildings can support both the physical and psychological health of their occupants. This may include material choices, introduction of biophilic elements, provision of social spaces, support of physical activity through design etc.

6. Water Conservation

Describe how building and site strategies conserve and manage water supplies, including measures to capitalize on renewable sources such as rainwater, and reusable sources such as building grey water. Indicate the strategies and technologies used for water conservation, and the projected potable water consumption per m²/occupant/annum for the building from municipal or other centralized off-site supply. What percentage improvement does this represent over the water consumption of the reference building?

7. Operating Energy Present and Future

Describe how the building's mechanical, electrical and related control systems complement passive design strategies such as orientation, thermal mass and building cross section. Explain how these systems contribute to energy conservation, reduced GHG emissions, improved building performance and comfort. What is the annual energy use intensity (EUI) for heating and cooling the building in KWhr/m²/yr? Indicate what percentage of the energy consumed is from renewable sources [site installations, district heating systems, waste heat captured from adjacent buildings, or green power certificates], and how the building could respond to a future reduction in, or elimination of, fossil fuels. See also Section 9 Life Cycle Considerations.

8. Materials and Resources

Describe how the selection of materials for the building addresses concerns for occupant health and comfort, durability, and building performance. Indicate how the materials chosen were assessed for their environmental impacts, (including embodied carbon) and provided transparency, such as through health or environmental product declarations. Indicate any life cycle analysis conducted, the percentage of recycled materials used in the building, and the percentage of waste materials recycled during construction. See also Section 9 Life Cycle Considerations.

9. Building Life Cycle Considerations

Building performance is increasingly focused on the reduction of both embodied and operating carbon over the life of the building. Whole Life Cycle Assessment WLCA is the methodology most commonly used to ensure all sources of carbon, both operational and embodied, are accounted for and reduced. Confirm whether WLCA was used on this project, and how it influenced the choices made around material specification and energy sourcing. If available, reference the kilograms of CO₂e /m² achieved for embodied carbon, relative to the applicable standard.

10. Education and Information Sharing

The ultimate success of sustainable design will require both a top down and bottom up approach. It will depend on transforming the cultural attitudes among building owners, and disseminating information among professionals to push the envelope of best practice standards. At the same time, public education will raise the awareness and expectations of building occupants and users, and encourage market transformation. Describe how the project addresses these concerns.

New Headquarters in Guelph, Ontario, Canada

PART 1

Commercial / Industrial (large) Category

Submitted March 2026



Project Summary

In summer 2024, the new corporate headquarters made a move from a leased workplace to a new build in the south end of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. This three-storey, 21,081 m² building was designed and constructed with a vision of being the physical embodiment of one of the organization's key values – **sustainability**.

This all-electric, CaGBC Zero Carbon Design Certified building has also received LEED Gold and WELL Platinum certifications in 2025. Targeting Zero Carbon Performance standards, BOMA Best, and Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility certifications – are a **first-of-its-kind building in Canada**.

Key sustainable design strategies used in this project include efficient interior space planning, future-proof design, a flexible space management program, and locally-sourced sustainable materials. These strategies and their importance are amplified in the building design itself, and through a robust change management strategy focusing on employee engagement. Success of the design-build project can also be attributed to **active collaboration** between owner, architect, GC, consultant teams and municipal officials.

This building represents our **vision** to be a catalyst for a resilient and sustainable society, showcasing to others that it is possible to create an inclusive, people-centric, collaborative working environment while supporting broader sustainability and community goals.



1. Strategic Decisions

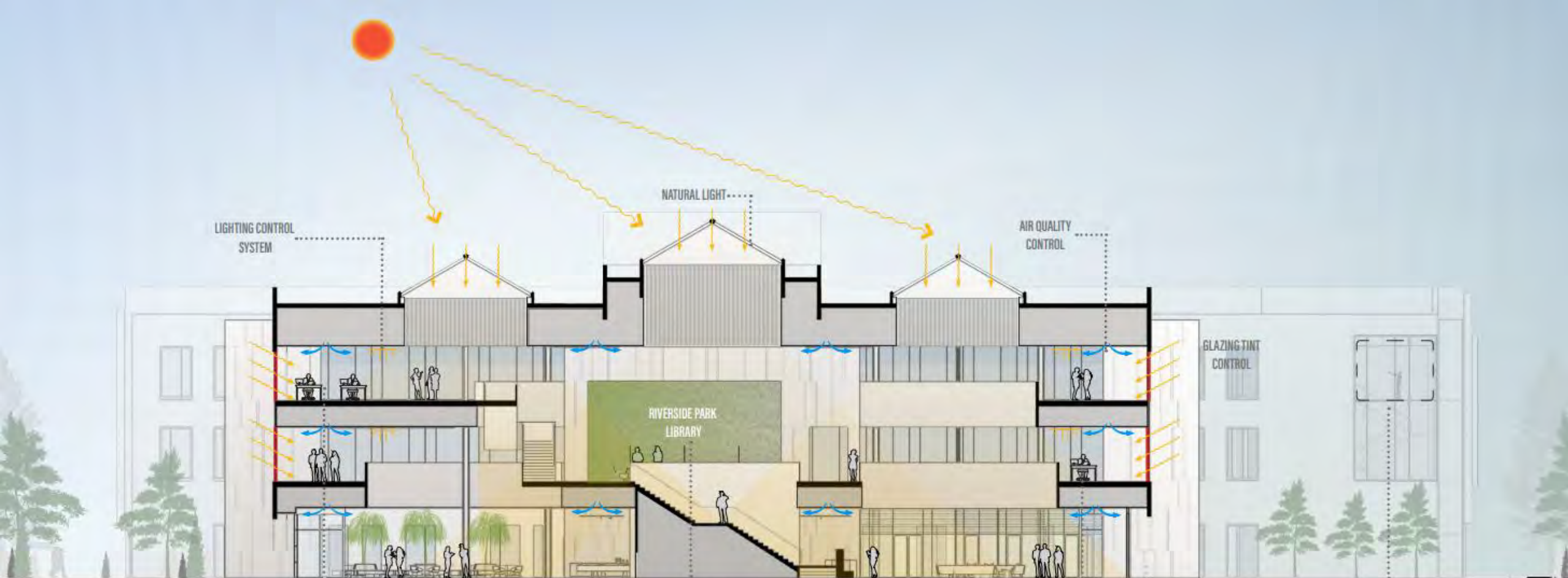
Our sustainability strategy began eight years ago when we reassessed our Guelph real estate needs. With operations spread across five sites, we chose to consolidate into a single purpose built location to streamline operations, support collaboration, and right size our footprint. When no suitable downtown sites were available, we shifted to the city's south end business park, where planned transit aligned with our CO₂ reduction goals. An employee geo map confirmed the site would shorten commuting distances.

An initial geo exchange system proved unfeasible due to future watershed constraints, leading to a quick pivot to the next best low carbon solution: a water source VRF HVAC system.

Building placement maximizes sunlight and minimizes obstruction, with extensive glazing to reduce artificial lighting needs. Electrochromic glass—automated through the BAS—controls glare, limits heat gain, stabilizes indoor temperatures, and reduces the need for active cooling.

Interior planning prioritized modularity and collaborative spaces to support a hybrid workforce. With only 500 workstations for 1,200 employees, the building can accommodate future growth without additional construction or embodied carbon.

Local and sustainable materials were emphasized throughout, including FSC certified wood, low emitting materials, and locally quarried stone, with a strong focus on Canadian made products.





2. Community

We partnered with neighbouring organizations to advocate for improved transit service, resulting in doubled bus frequency. To further support public transit use, we funded an on-site bus shelter and will launch a transit subsidy program this spring.

Active transportation is supported through secure storage for 40 bicycles and an on-site repair station. The parking lot includes 21 EV chargers, with underground infrastructure for future expansion, and 120 parking spaces were removed from the original design to create water permeable landscaping.

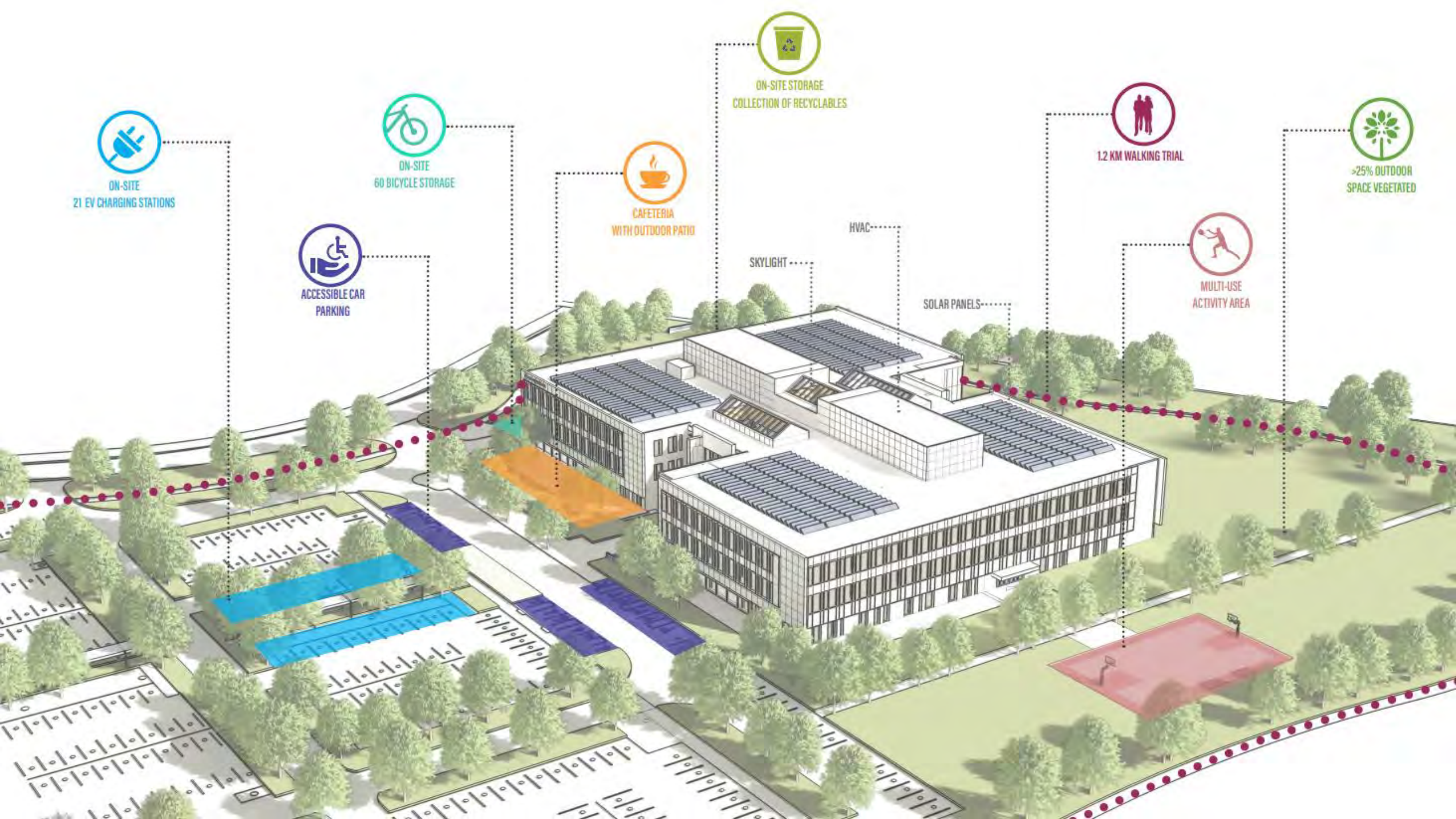
We continue to partner with the City's Economic Development team to showcase this project within the local business community.



3. Site Ecology

Our headquarters supports local ecosystems with native, drought tolerant plantings, creating a landscape that is 40% vegetation and conserving water while supporting biodiversity. With no permanent irrigation, the landscape will be fully self sustaining, minimizing water use and preserving natural hydrological cycles.

Located along the Paris Moraine, a key groundwater recharge area, the site also expands local meadows and pollinator habitat. By prioritizing native flora and water conservation, the design strengthens neighborhood ecological health and supports regional sustainability goals.



ON-SITE
21 EV CHARGING STATIONS



ON-SITE
60 BICYCLE STORAGE



ACCESSIBLE CAR
PARKING



CAFETERIA
WITH OUTDOOR PATIO



ON-SITE STORAGE
COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES

SKYLIGHT

HVAC

SOLAR PANELS



1.2 KM WALKING TRAIL



>25% OUTDOOR
SPACE VEGETATED



MULTI-USE
ACTIVITY AREA



4. Light and Air

The building uses electrochromic glass on all elevations to optimize thermal comfort, circadian lighting, and energy efficiency. Because the glass remains fixed, there are no operable windows in regularly occupied spaces. Annual lighting energy use is projected at **225,991 kWh/yr** (10 kWh/m²/yr).

Ventilation is provided by three high efficiency dual core DOAS ERV units with VFD fans supplying air through VAV boxes:

- **DOAS 1:** 20,978 cfm (0.3 ACH)
- **DOAS 2:** 18,340 cfm (0.2 ACH)
- **DOAS 3:** 3,015 cfm (0.2 ACH) — serving the atrium

CO₂ sensors enable demand-controlled ventilation. A separate **8,500 cfm** MUA unit (30 ACH) serves the commercial kitchen with VFD-controlled exhaust. All spaces are ventilated at **30% above ASHRAE 62.1** requirements, and **MERV 13 and MERV 15** filters protect occupants from harmful pollutants.



5. Wellness

Our headquarters supports employee well-being through a fully subsidized fitness facility, biophilic features such as the living wall, and an outdoor walking trail. The design provides equitable access to natural light, enhanced acoustic comfort, and strategically placed stairwells that encourage movement and connection. Ergonomic standards are embedded throughout, including sit-stand desks, dual-screen mounts, and high-quality task chairs. These features are reinforced through strong change-management support, including a custom ergonomic training video to help employees optimize their workstation setup.



6. Water Conservation

Plumbing fixtures were specified to match LEED flush and flow rates and as a result, the building achieved a 38.58% reduction in potable water used compared to a baseline building. The projected potable water consumption is approximately 0.193 L/year/m²/occupant.



7. Operating Energy Present and Future

Mechanical, electrical, and control systems are fully integrated to improve efficiency and comfort. **Electrochromic windows** work with sensor-based lighting to optimize daylight and reduce cooling loads. The **all-electric HVAC system** cuts emissions, supported by a highly insulated envelope (R 14 walls, R 43 roof) that minimizes heating and cooling demand. Heating EUI is 18 kWh/m²/yr and cooling EUI is 7 kWh/m²/yr.

A **rooftop photovoltaic array offsets 13.6% of total energy use**. The building's efficient systems also allow for future renewable energy and battery storage integration, reducing grid reliance and supporting peak demand management.



ELECTROCHROMIC GLAZING



AIR QUALITY &
VENTILATION CONTROL



INDOOR BIOPHILIC
ELEMENTS



ADVANCED HVAC SYSTEM



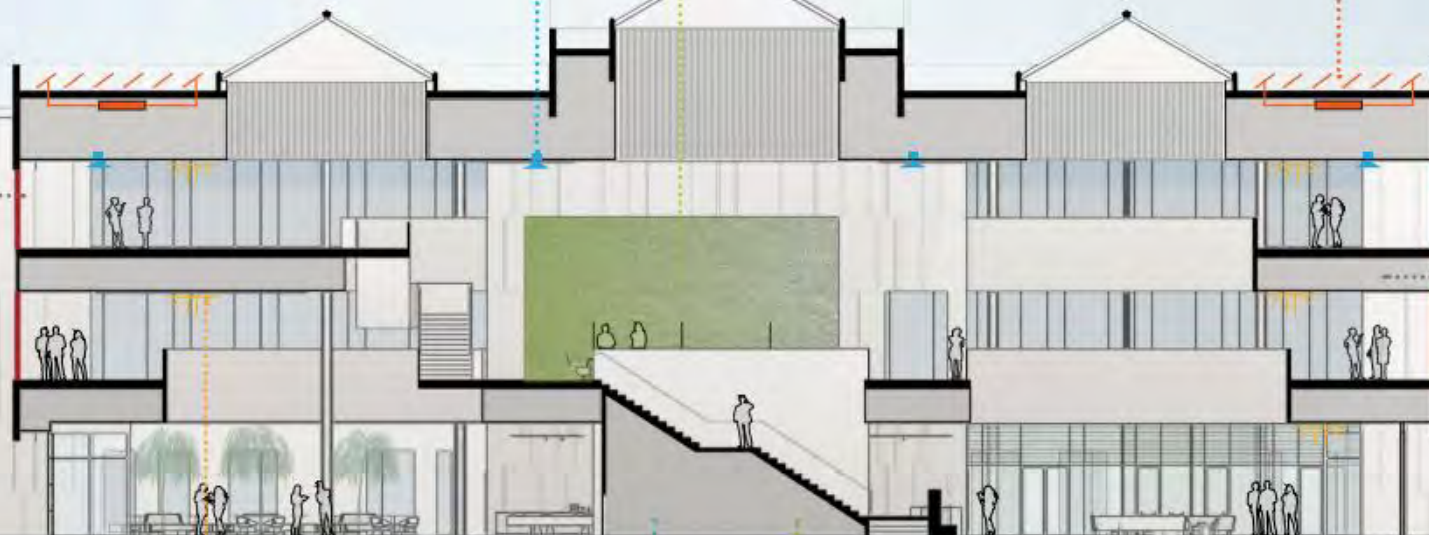
RENEWABLE ENERGY
PRODUCTION



ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE



OUTDOOR WATER
USE REDUCTION



~25% OUTDOOR
SPACE VEGETATED



ON-SITE STORAGE
AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES



ENERGY EFFICIENT
LIGHTING



APPROX. 40% INDOOR
WATER USE REDUCTION



INDOOR
LOW-EMITTING MATERIALS



BUILDING LIFE-CYCLE
IMPACT REDUCTION



ON-SITE
60 BICYCLE STORAGE



ON-SITE
21 EV CHARGING STATIONS



8. Materials and Resources

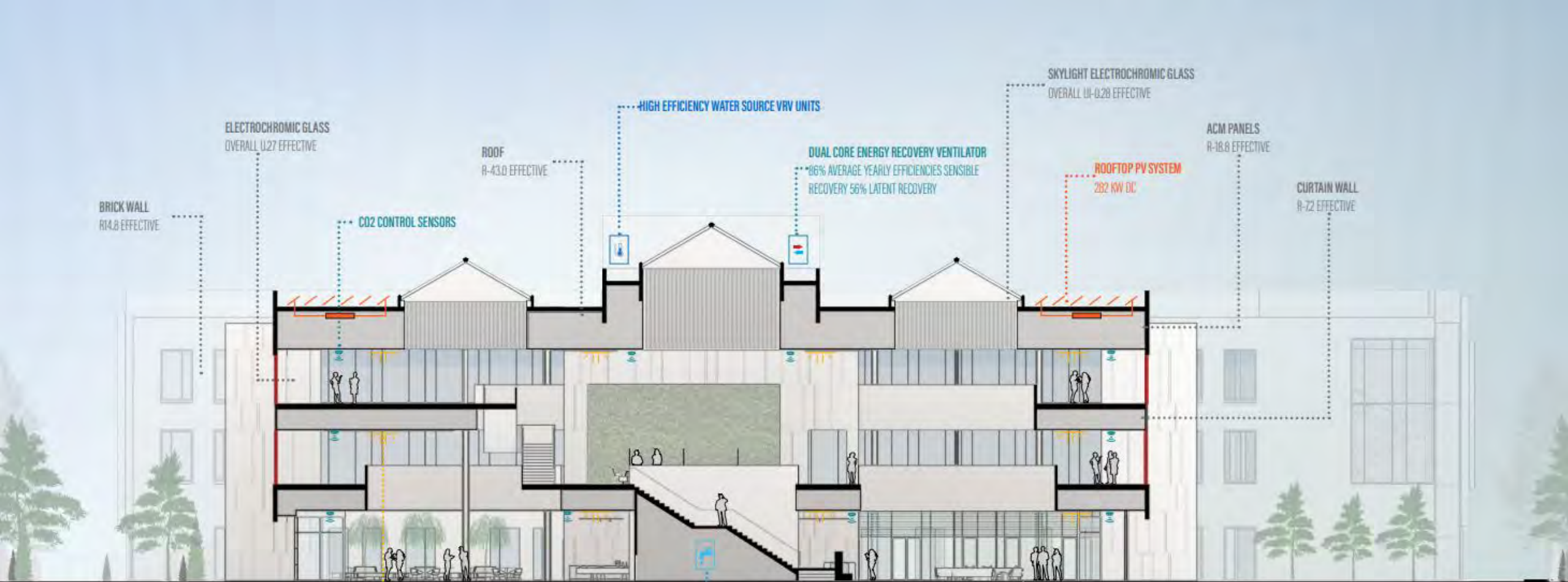
This headquarters prioritizes occupant health, comfort, durability, and performance through sustainable material choices. We sourced 30 Environmental Product Declarations and 35 Health Product Declarations, providing transparent data on embodied carbon and health impacts. Sustainable materials accounted for 52.6% of total costs, and 83.04% of construction waste was diverted across six streams. This approach improves durability, reduces pollutants, and establishes a benchmark for responsible sourcing and waste management.



9. Building Life Cycle Considerations

We future-proofed the building through modular space planning, allowing furniture swaps to adapt constructed areas for new uses. A multipurpose design approach also shaped key spaces—for example, the open Atrium serves as a coffee-house style gathering area but can convert into a 200+-person town hall through flexible fixtures and layout choices.

We also respected material life cycles during the decommissioning of previous locations. Through Teknion's Divert program, we maximized reuse, resale, donation, and component-level recycling, achieving a 94% diversion rate. This effort diverted 1,643 metric tonnes of CO₂e, equivalent to removing 360 gas-powered vehicles from the road for a year.





10. Education and Information Sharing

Since opening in late 2023, we have focused on sharing the building's story and the sustainability decisions behind it. Instead of a traditional ribbon cutting, our grand opening featured leaders, local dignitaries, and Indigenous Elders “seeding the meadow garden.” Employees received local pollinator seed packs to encourage at home gardens and strengthen connection to our shared vision. We've welcomed friends, family, retirees, and community members to tour the facility.

We have also delivered educational sessions to post secondary students to inspire future professionals in construction, design, and facilities management.

Additionally, we opened our doors to peer organizations in financial services, city planning and sustainable development sectors, to share our experience and inspire others that it is possible to have a sustainable building that also supports the wellness of its people.

