



## Berkeley Climate Action Plan: Tracking our Progress Building Energy Use – Green Building Case Study



<b>Project Name:</b>	Berkeley City College
<b>Location:</b>	2050 Center Street
<b>Building Type:</b>	Higher Education
<b>Square Feet:</b>	165,000
<b>Year Built:</b>	2006
<b>Green Credentials:</b>	<a href="#">LEED NC Silver</a>
<b>Project Team:</b>	Peralta Community College District, Ratcliff Architects

**Performance Highlights:** Berkeley City College reports a 58% increase in student enrollment in the three years since the building opened.

*“This was the first LEED project for Ratcliff Architects. This project positively contributes to Ratcliff’s ability to attain future work.” Mike Matson, Ratcliff Architects*

Berkeley City College (BCC) is the first community college in the State of California to earn LEED Silver certification. The 165,000 square foot project contains all campus functions within a single building envelope and is located in Berkeley’s transit-rich Downtown. Its most striking design feature is the central atrium, which brings daylight deep into the building’s six-story core. From the skylight to the basement the atrium’s vertical shaft allows air to circulate freely contributing to the natural ventilation of the building.

The project is designed to exceed the State’s Title 24 energy requirements by 30%. Energy-saving design features include high efficiency lighting systems and intelligent building controls such as a highly efficient mechanical ventilation system that improves indoor air quality by exchanging indoor air for outdoor air. The building also has a white roof that reflects solar radiation rather than absorbing it, which provides greenhouse gas reduction and heat-island mitigation benefits. The project diverted 77% (almost 1,000 tons) of the construction waste from the landfill. In addition, the building materials contain a high percentage of recycled content. BCC also saved resources by not creating any additional parking. Its proximity to public transit and existing parking in the neighborhood made this possible.

The Peralta Community College District was awarded over \$190,000 in cash incentives to achieve high levels of energy efficiency and waste diversion through programs administered by PG&E (Savings by Design program) and StopWaste.org.

Additional green features include:

- The building houses secure indoor bicycle parking, locker and shower facilities.
- Low-flow sensor-controlled plumbing fixtures are designed to make BCC 33% more water efficient than comparable buildings.
- Digitally-controlled ventilation systems are designed to automatically mitigate heightened carbon monoxide levels.
- Lighting fixtures at the exterior, rooftop, and below the atrium skylight are shielded so as to minimize light pollution to the night sky.

**Tracking our progress:** Review Climate Action Plan performance metrics at [www.cityofberkeley.info/climate](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/climate)