

Live, Learn and Thrive.

In this Issue



Goats to Graze at NMSU Campus



LEED buildings

University goes green in cleaning efforts, supplies

New Mexico State University's colors are still crimson and white, but the Las Cruces campus has gone green.

As of Jan. 13, the NMSU campus has fully adopted a "green cleaning" program. The green cleaning objective calls for a switch to environmentally friendly cleaning products and equipment meant to improve campus health and appearance. According to Art Lucero, who manages NMSU's custodial, solid waste and recycling programs, the Facilities and Services had established green cleaning as a departmental, campus-wide goal.

"Green cleaning is cleaning to protect health without harming the environment," Lucero said. "It goes beyond chemical and equipment choices and includes policies, procedures, training and shared responsibility efforts that minimize the impact of cleaning materials on the health of building occupants and protects the environment as a whole."

"Green Cleaning is more than switching a few products," he explained. "It's about effective cleaning to create healthier buildings and at the same time reduce environmental impacts. These products are safer for our employees to handle as well."

As part of the move to green cleaning, NMSU now uses Green Seal-certified paper products and cleaning chemicals. "OFS has made a commitment to being a responsible member of the university community," Lucero said. "We are dedicated to providing a safe and healthful environment to support our mission of providing an environment for learning and discovery at NMSU.

"A clean environment promotes learning," he continued. "We're improving indoor air quality by using vacuums with HEPA [high-efficiency particulate absorbing] air filtration. We are also moving towards microfiber technologies - using reusable cleaning cloths, wet mops and dust mops

to minimize waste, reduce chemical use and increase the effectiveness of our cleaning procedures. We're improving our entryway systems to reduce the amount of dirt, dust, pollen and other particles entering the building when the doors are opened." As most faculty, staff and students have no doubt noticed, campus restrooms all have new paper towel and toilet paper holders, as well as soap dispensers. These upgrades were part of the greening process and designed to not only be more environmentally friendly, but also to bring long-term cost savings to the university. All paper products are post-consumer based, and moving from 700-foot to 1,000-foot rolls enables staff to spend less time changing out rolls, leaving more time to clean. The dispensers themselves are much more resistant and durable as well, meaning long-term replacement costs should decrease.



New Entryway Systems made from Recycled Plastic Bottles

NMSU installed 1,315 sq feet of walk-off mats on main campus in 2011. One sq foot of mat equals four half-liter bottles which equals a total of 5,260 PET bottles that were recycled and reused.

NMSU plans on following the City of Las Cruces in their use of grazing goats clean up weeds

Las Cruces has come up with what it thinks is a cheap and environmentally friendly way of clearing weeds and other vegetation -- by using a herd of goats.

The city has hired 60 four-legged workers to eat all of the tall and growing vegetation in and around a 6 ½ acre storm water drainage pond that is not easily accessible but needs tending.

Agriculture officials at New Mexico State University say the goats can eat between two to three percent of their weight a day and it shouldn't take the goats long to clear the area.



The City of Las Cruces allowed goats to roam freely in early February after they were released in the fenced 6 1/2 -acre storm water drainage pond, just south of Munson Senior Center, at the northeast corner of Mesquite Street and Utah Avenue. About 60 goats roamed the area to control tall-growing weeds by eating the vegetation.

NMSU-A Science Center addition earns LEED Gold Certification

NMSU Alamogordo has received official notification that their new Allied Health Addition to the Reidlinger Science Center has earned LEED Gold Certification. This high level of certification was awarded to the new structure based on the LEED point system, which provides a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. The Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. It promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

In achieving the LEED Gold certification, NMSU Alamogordo demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

"We are very excited and proud that White Sands Construction had the opportunity, in our hometown, to build the Allied Health Services Building for NMSU-A," said Nell Crimmins, president of White Sands Construction, Inc. "Due to a great teaming relationship, we were able to achieve Gold (LEED-certification)."

Gary Williams, president of the architectural firm Williams Design Group, said, "We are extremely pleased with the Gold rating on the Health Sciences Center, NMSU's first LEED-certified building. The process requires a concerted effort by all participants in the project-design team, owner and contractor-and everyone did their part to achieve this recognition."

The Gold certification was officially approved on Dec. 17, 2010. According to the LEED Projects and Case Studies Directory NMSU-A's Allied Health Services Building is one of only 12 buildings in the state to reach LEED Gold at the time, and it is the first building within the NMSU system to achieve the certification.

For more information on LEED certification visit

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New Mexico State University (NMSU) has secured LEED certification for its second campus building, joining the ranks of colleges nationwide taking the lead on green building.

NMSU's new DACC East Mesa Center Phase V project recently took LEED Gold certification for its energy efficient design, water use reduction, low carbon emissions, attention to indoor air quality and sustainably sourced/recycled materials.



The new Reidlinger green building on New Mexico State Alamogordo campus.