



University Sustainability Project Incorporates Futuristic Wastewater Reuse Technologies

New rural campus includes graywater reuse, constructed wetlands and advanced rainwater runoff strategies to return as much water as possible to the local aquifer

By David Steinkraus

When it received a grant of 388 acres of land about a decade ago, Chatham University already had a main campus near downtown Pittsburgh and another about a mile east of the main campus. The university's leaders decided to use a fraction of the newly acquired land for a third campus about 25 miles north of downtown. This campus would combine the best of sustainable technologies including an integrated system to handle the water falling on and flowing through the campus.

How well they succeeded is shown by the award the project won: COTE Top 10 Award from the Committee on the Environment of the American Institute of Architects. Each year the American Institute of Architects gives these recognitions to projects that set high standards for design and sustainability. Chatham University says the Eden Hall Campus is the first fully sustainable campus in higher education in the world.

The property came with some buildings that were remodeled. Four