

Gatewood building on its way to LEED certification

The Roger B. Gatewood Wing addition to the Mechanical Engineering Building is being constructed as the University's first building certified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council.



LEED establishes standards for new construction that support the ecosystem and promote a healthy work environment. The standards are in six categories — sustainable building site, water efficiency, energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas production, building materials and resource efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and design innovation.

Depending upon a building's

adherence to these standards, it may receive platinum, gold, silver or LEED-certified status.

"Every credit or initiative in LEED construction is carefully planned and thoroughly documented," says Luci Keazer, a LEED-accredited engineer in the Office of the University Architect. Keazer says Purdue was originally planning for certified or silver certification, but now a gold rating looks possible.

The Gatewood building has several features that earn LEED points in the category of sustainable building site:

■ **Development density and community connectivity:** The new building is being constructed on previously developed land within a half-mile of a residential zone and

within a half-mile of at least 10 basic services that are accessible by pedestrians. These include banks, a fire station, library, restaurants, place of worship, and fitness and community centers.

■ **Alternative transportation:** Bicycle storage and changing rooms. The new building will feature exterior bike racks, lockers, and men's and women's shower rooms.

■ **Alternative transportation:** Parking capacity. Selected parking spaces in the Northwestern Avenue Parking Garage are to be reserved for carpools.

■ **Alternative transportation:** Low emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles. Selected parking spaces in the Northwestern Avenue Parking Garage are to be reserved for hybrids.