

Promoting Green at the NIH Library

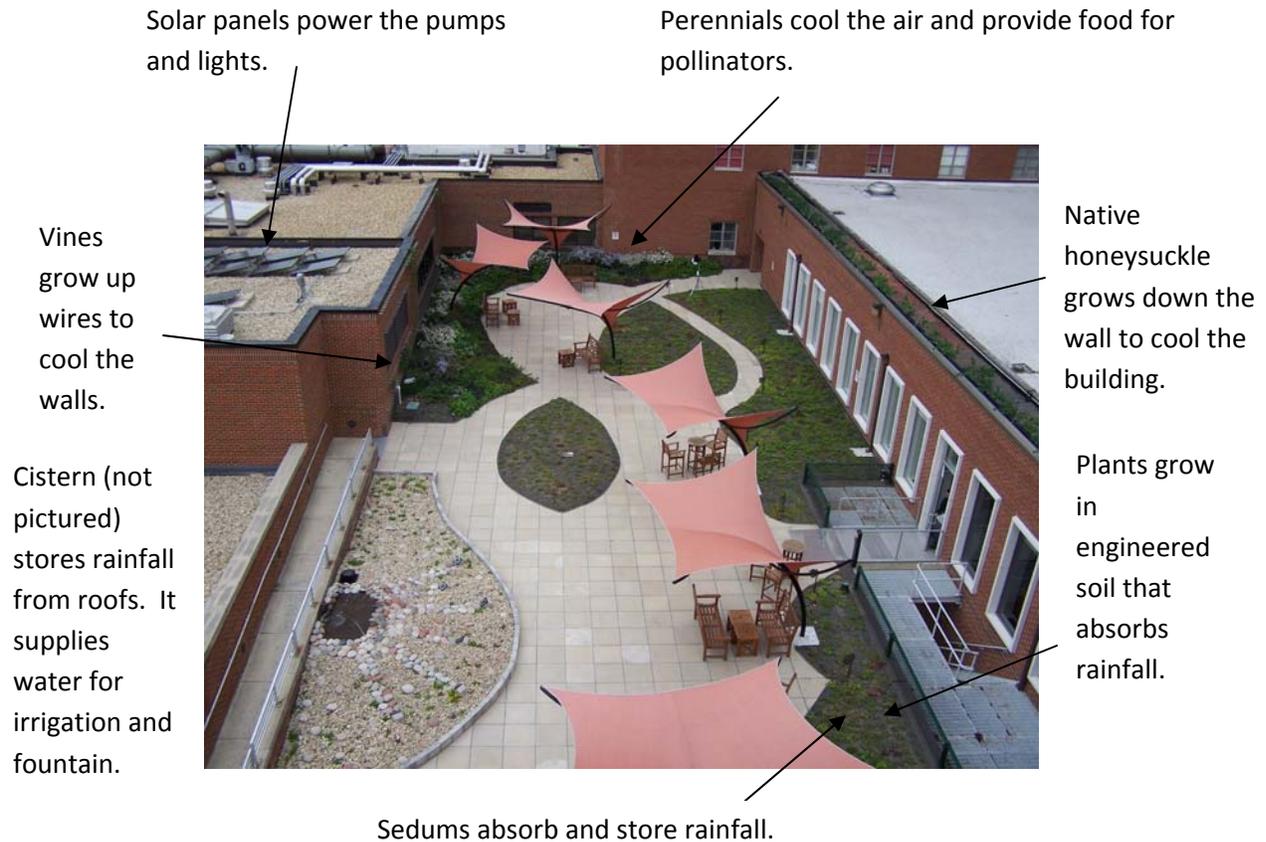


Get Set for Green...

People Enjoying the New Green Terrace

Components of the Green Terrace

The NIH Library transformed an area of concrete pavers into an inviting green terrace where people can study, eat, collaborate, and renew.



Next Steps:

The NIHL is conducting research on the terrace.

- A weather station is monitoring the changes in temperature and rainwater storage.
- The Library will conduct an observational study to see how staff use the terrace.

Green Education...

Sharing our green experience with NIH

Green on the Inside

The color of the carpet is green, but the green does not stop there. The carpet is made from recycled materials. When the NIH Library renovated the Reading Room, it created an interior space with green elements.

Carpet – Made from recycled materials.

Window Shades – They keep the heat out and let the light in. Shades are GreenGuard certified for low air emission products.

Reused Materials – While renovating the Reading Room, the Library reused materials whenever possible. For example, the wooden study carrels were updated with electrical outlets for laptop users instead of buying new furniture.

Recycling – The NIHL has an active Green Team and recycling program.

Training Room Ceiling – Made from renewable bamboo.

Lights – Installed high-efficiency florescent bulbs in ceiling fixtures.

Mats in the Terrace Vestibule – Made from recycled tires.

Energy Star Rated Roof – The new roof over the Reading Room is rated as meeting the strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and U.S. Department of Energy.

Training Room Walls – Made from recycled materials and shipped in environmentally friendly crates.

Next Steps:

The NIH Library is in the process of becoming LEED Certified as a Commercial Interior.

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.
- LEED for Commercial Interiors is the green benchmark for the tenant improvement market. It is the recognized system for certifying high-performance green interiors that are healthy, productive places to work; are less costly to operate and maintain; and have a reduced environmental footprint.

Green with Envy...

The NIH Library wants to be the first LEED interior at NIH

Green Services

The Library is working to make its services and resources green.

Paper-free Document Delivery

Our document delivery service is paperless. We scan articles into PDFs and post them to a website where users can retrieve them.

Paper-free Online Journals and Books

We subscribe to more than 9,000 online journals, and over 99% of the current journals are online.

We provide access to thousands of online books.

Information Management

We teach courses in using QUOSA, EndNote, and Reference Manager to retrieve and organize collections of articles in PDF.

Next Steps:

The Library has changed a lot in the past 10 years. We'll continue to look for more ways to innovate and to go green. Here are some examples:

- In 1998 fewer than 20% of the journals were online, 10 years later over 99% of the current journals are online. As a result of increasing online access, the Library's document delivery system moved from a paper-based system to a paperless one. In addition, NIH staff moved to directly accessing articles online and the number of document delivery requests received by the Library decreased from 442,000 in 1998 to slightly less than 100,000 in 2008. Whenever feasible the NIH Library will continue to identify and subscribe to online access for critical information resources in order to save both paper and the time of NIH researchers, clinicians, and administrators.
- The Library is launching a new product called AutoStore that allows people who use the Library's printers and copiers to save paper by offering automatic access to email, USB keys, personal drives, Sharepoint, etc., instead of printing the document.

NIH Library

Office of Research Services
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services

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Anticipating More Green...

Keep watching for more green innovation and services