

## UC Davis Energy Conservation Office

The first US Building to complete all three parts of the BREEAM In-Use Assessment

### Case study



### Scope

The Energy Conservation Office (ECO) is home to the Energy & Engineering team at the University of California – Davis (UC Davis). In a previous life the building was the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) building that was used for shooting training in the 1950s-70s, and as such is often referred to as the historical Rifle Range. The Energy & Engineering's team mission is to improve building performance and eliminate energy waste at the building level to further UC Davis' carbon neutrality goals and practice sustainable stewardship on campus. The ECO is a testbed for building technology and is an office space for students and staff who are dedicated to collaborating with campus partners to make buildings operate more efficiently.

**/// As an office, we take pride in working in an energy-efficient space and as being an organization that promotes the health and well-being of our staff. ///**

Alex Malm, Green Building Project Manager

### Challenges

The Energy & Engineering team at UC Davis aim to improve the sustainability of the wider UC Davis campus, and needed an office space that lead by example.

"Energy and Engineering is an organization that propels the UC Davis campus' energy and sustainability goals. Within the ECO, we strive to provide educational tools, outreach and energy projects that help the campus operate more efficiently and save energy." Alex Malm, Green Building Project Manager.

## Solution

BREEAM provided the opportunity for the Energy & Engineering team to showcase their innovative mindset and efficient operations within the ECO, as well as serve as a valuable learning opportunity for the Green Buildings Team to further green building certification across the UC Davis campus.

"Introducing BREEAM to our portfolio of green building certifications has greatly expanded our efforts. The online tools aids us in easily tracking, comparing and planning for future efforts. The data compiled for the BREEAM In-Use projects allows me to reach out to those in the field to set sustainability goals with the facts. Making this easier has increased the interest in greening our buildings, which is always a win-win for staff and students." Amy Burns, Sustainability Officer, Facilities Management.

**// BREEAM allowed us to evaluate our current processes and metrics and recognize areas where we excel while identifying others that we could improve upon. //**

Alex Malm, Green Buildings Project Manager



## Benefits

The ECO has experienced a wide breadth of benefits as a result of certifying with BREEAM USA In-Use.

The BREEAM assessment helped the Green Buildings Team to demonstrate the building's sustainability credentials. Aileen Jiang of the Green Buildings Team said "BREEAM delves deep into a building's goals and shows the importance of each requirement. With BREEAM, the ECO shows off its environmental and energy contributions towards UC Davis' campus goals."

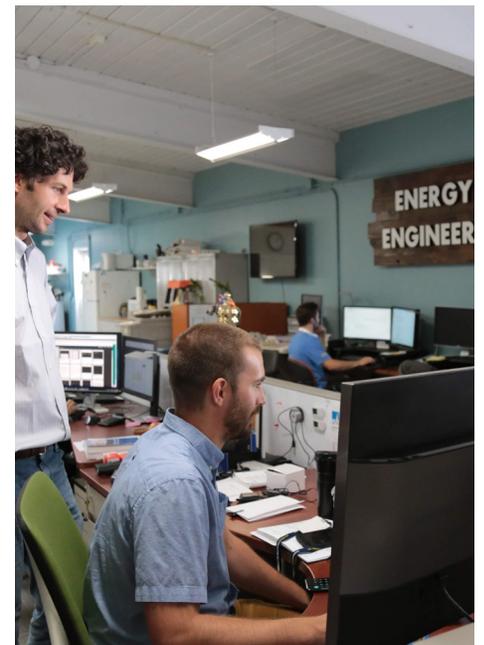
Alex Malm, Green Building Projects Manager also supported this; "BREEAM is a comprehensive evaluation of sustainability performance. We knew ECO had a low carbon footprint prior to the project, but this certification confirmed that our operations and management are also worthy of recognition from a sustainability perspective."

The team found the assessment to be more than a tick-box exercise of current performance, but also a method of future proofing for planning & communicating ongoing sustainability efforts.

The easy to understand BREEAM criteria meant that building users were able to positively engage with the assessment & better understand the outcomes. Ysela Larios, Sustainability Associate at Healthy Buildings said "The straightforward BREEAM manual allows building users to rate their building regardless of technical background."

**// I can say with confidence that after completing the ECO BREEAM assessment and all projects following, that sustainability will continue to remain one of UC Davis' topmost goals. BREEAM has demonstrated that it's not just about checking a credit off as complete; it's about maintaining those green standards for years to come. //**

Nora Jang, Green Buildings Team



### Project Team

**Client:** University of California, Davis  
**BREEAM Assessor:** Healthy Buildings

### Key Facts

**BREEAM Scheme:** BREEAM USA In-Use  
**Rating achieved:**  
**Asset performance:** Excellent 70.3%  
**Building Management:** Excellent 75.6%  
**Occupier Management:** Excellent 79%

### Get in touch

For more information on BREEAM services in the USA go to:  
breeam@bregroup.com  
+1 (415) 747-5152  
www.breeam.com/usa