

Leslie Science Center



This 1700 square foot classroom building is a state-of-the-art demonstration of sustainable design.

The extremely energy efficient structure gets the majority of its heating and electrical needs from the sun. Systems include two types of photovoltaic panels, a solar domestic hot water system, and a passive solar trombe wall. Water resources are conserved with composting toilets that recycle human nutrients back to the environment. A living machine processes greywater, and rainwater is collected from the roof for irrigation.



Materials were carefully selected for durability and recycled content. These include bio-fiber window sills and trim, low-voc paints, tiles made from recycled glass, and a durable metal roof.

The Nature House helps educate its 17,000 annual visitors on how to reduce our impact on the natural environment. Funded in part by Detroit Edison and MichCon, the project received the Annual Design Excellence Award for 2000 from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association .

