CORNELL TECH
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

People are going to have to learn to live sustainably on earth as our natural resources are depleted. Cornell Tech is committed to this, not just by studying it but by living it. By creating a campus with the highest level of performance with a modest environmental footprint, we will help future generations thrive.

Across campus, sustainable design—and some equally progressive engineering—pushes the edges of current practices. With buildings designed according to LEED, Net Zero and Passive House principles, the campus promises to be one of the most environmentally friendly and energy-efficient campuses in the world.

HEALTHY LIVING

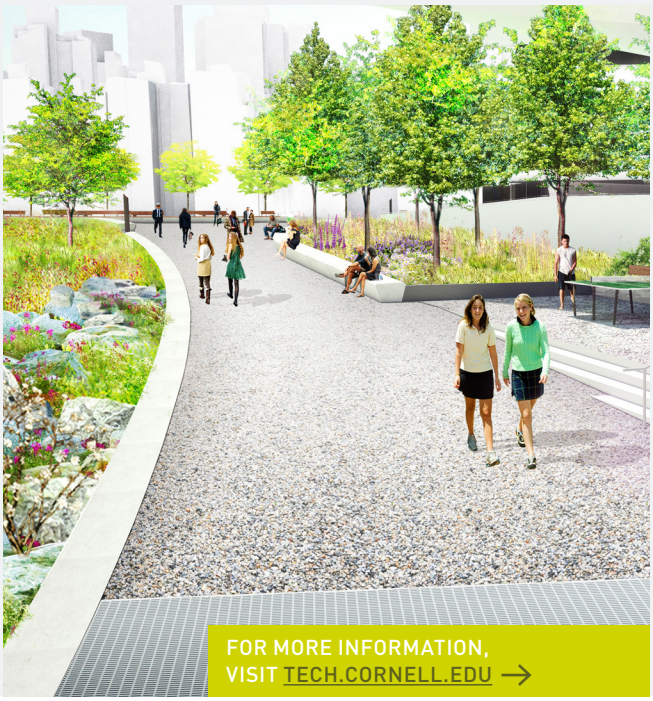
The campus will provide the Cornell Tech community with 2.5 acres of new open and accessible outdoor space. Balancing buildings and open space, the campus will use active design elements to create healthy human environments like gardens, promenades, outdoor classrooms and riverfront access. Indoor environmental quality will be closely monitored and maintained with the latest technologies so that faculty, staff, and students will interact within a space that is continuously examined for quality performance.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Photovoltaic (PV) arrays will be mounted on the rooftops of a number of campus buildings. Solar power will provide cost-effective, price-stabilized electricity to serve Cornell Tech for the foreseeable future and is a critical component of The Bloomberg Center's Net Zero Energy use aspirations. By harvesting as much solar power as possible, Cornell Tech can minimize its impact on New York City's electrical grid, while also avoiding greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity generation from fossil fuel combustion. Other sustainable strategies include orienting buildings to maximize their photovoltaic performance, investing in efficient geothermal heating and cooling systems, high performance building envelopes, harvesting daylight to limit the use of electric lighting, using natural ventilation where appropriate, and creating efficient lighting systems that use the latest proven technology and controls.

WATER MANAGEMENT

To reduce the need for a precious resource, water efficient designs will be used both inside and outside the buildings to conserve water and protect local resources. Reduced-flow water fixtures are incorporated throughout the buildings. The Bloomberg Center has a rainwater harvesting system to reduce sewer discharge and potable water usage. Harvesting rain will make the building more self-sufficient, supplying nearly all of its non-potable water demand with rainwater. Bioswales are natural filtration pathways for storm water, where silt and pollution are removed from surface runoff water before being discharged to the East River. A 40,000-gallon stormwater retention tank will be buried under the campus lawn close to The Bloomberg Center in addition to that building's 30,000-gallon roof collection unit. After providing preliminary treatment to the collected rainwater, this non-potable water will irrigate campus lawns, provide water for fixtures, and get pumped to the cooling tower.



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