



02/01/08

Stay Tuned:

Next Month Features:
 Eco-Dorm-Green
 Furniture

Volume 1, Issue 1



NYU's Green Room

Certification Criteria:

Climate Cool



Cradle to Cradle



Fair Trade



Energy Star



SCS



Green Guard



LEED



Green Organizations

- AASHE– Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education– www.aashe.org
- USGBC– U.S. Green Building Council– www.usgbc.org
- HEASC-Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium– www.heasc.net
- NYU-Sustainability– www.nyu.edu/sustainability

Steelcase- “Think” Differently

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

We often forget that one of the largest components of a “Sustainable” project is the furniture. The perception about sustainable furniture has been one of skepticism. Is it as durable? Is it too expensive? Is it aesthetically pleasing? The exciting news is that sustainability now means great quality and design at a great cost. The most important question should be “How is this furniture made and what is its impact on human and environmental life?”

For NYU, Steelcase offers a wide selection of furniture designed to be re-used and recycled. There are several attributes to look for.

- Paints, stains and finishes should contain low or no VOCs. (Volatile Organic Compound)
- Reduced use of glues and formaldehydes
- Natural Fabrics, recycled fabric contents and toxin free upholstery
- Materials that are or can be recycled
- Minimal packaging
- Regionally sourced, which saves fuel and associated emissions.

Steelcase’s “Think” task chairs is the epitome of green seating options. Not only is it 98% recyclable by weight, it is manufactured by using powder coated paints and water based adhesives. The chair is blanket wrapped and



Steelcase’s “Think” Task Chair- Aesthetically pleasing to the eyes and Environmentally pleasing to the future . www.steelcase.com

can be disassembled in 5 minutes with simple hand tools. This chair is a good example of how sustainable furniture can be aesthetically beautiful while maintaining the environmental integrity.

Jump on the Green Bandwagon!

By Giselle Graham– NYU– Purchasing Services

The goal of the University is to have Green Design fully integrated into all future projects. Soon low emissions, energy efficiency, reduced water use, recycled materials and natural day lighting will be common attributes needed to design a space. There has been an increased availability of sustainable products such as paints, carpets, furniture and equipment over the past 5 years. That makes it easier for designers to include it into

new designs for the University. So the question is what is really Green? Right? At this stage of the sustainable movement , not all manufacturers are fully versed or equipped with green knowledge. From my most recent experience, by starting up a dialogue with the most knowledgeable person at the company , you could learn a few new things as well as bring awareness of your concerns to the manufacturer. In turn they will be

more likely to work to address them. Some top questions are:

1. What’s in the product?
2. How was it made?
3. Recycled content? Recyclable at the end of it’s useful life?
4. Is there a reclamation program?
5. Any off-gassing components?

The goal is to use these as a starter . Good Luck!