Project Overview

The Penn Environmental Education Kitchen (PEEK) is a Green Fund project that supports the mission of the University Women's Center by integrating important environmental lessons into daily operations. The goal of the project was to educate students on green design strategies as well as the environmental impact of diet and consumer choices through a renovation of the Women's Center kitchen area.

The kitchen was designed by Muscoe Martin, a lecturer in Penn’s School of Design and nationally recognized leader in environmental architecture, to show that sustainable design is beautiful, functional, and provides all the conveniences of a modern kitchen in a way that reduces the impact of its construction and operation. Some of the green construction features include low-flow sink fixtures, LED under-counter lights, cork flooring, Energy Star appliances, salvaged wood shelves, and low-VOC paints.

There are also several educational aspects to the kitchen including a worm farm that allows users to compost excess food waste, green cleaning supplies and drying racks for dishes, as well as a cistern in the basement of the building that collects excess rainwater to be filtered, disinfected, and used for ground floor toilet water. Strategically placed educational messaging reinforces the significance of the sustainable features in the kitchen.

View the PEEK website Here

Watch the PEEK project video – Watch Here

Lessons Learned

Work-study students were hired by the Women's Center to help manage the kitchen, ensure smooth operations and educate users and guests about the environmental issues addressed by the project. Additionally, PEEK has received financial support from the Office of the Vice Provost for
University Life. Members of the Penn community can rent through the kitchen through the Penn Women’s Center website, allowing the learning experience to extend beyond everyday occupants and users of the Women’s Center.

Press

*Penn Current* highlights the PEEK – [Read More]
*News Works* discusses the PEEK and Green Fund Grants – [Read More]

Additional Photos

View the complete photo slideshow of the design, construction and implementation of the PEEK – [Here]