

# The past, present and future of SIS sustainable projects

Our Skanska Integrated Solutions (SIS) team—the program management and consulting arm of Skanska USA Building—has overseen the design and construction of hundreds of projects across the country, including some of our company’s most sustainable projects to date. In celebration of Earth Day, we’re giving you a closer look at a few of our past, current and future SIS projects that have and will lead the way in sustainable design and construction.

## Brock Environmental Center

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Completed in:  
**2014**



This 10,500 square-foot facility was created to engage and educate the public about the Chesapeake Bay environment. The Brock Environmental Center includes space for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s (CBF) offices, community meetings and CBF’s award-winning environmental education program, which provides outdoor watershed experiences for 2,500 students and teachers annually.

### Fun sustainability facts:

- The Brock Environmental Center is the first facility in Virginia to be LEED® Platinum certified, receive a Living Building Challenge (LBC) certification, and recycle rainwater as drinking water.
- The net-zero building sends power back to the electrical grid through various renewable technologies, including photovoltaic (PV) cells, wind turbines and geothermal walls.
- The exterior siding is made of reclaimed sinker cypress, which typically lasts over 150 years.
- Reclaimed maple wood flooring was pulled from a Virginia Beach middle school gym and used throughout the facility.

## Gulf State Park

Gulf Shores, Alabama

Completed in:  
**2018**



This \$140 million, one-of-a-kind project included the enhancement of the 6,100-acre Gulf State Park with the construction of a new 350-room lodge with conference facility, an Interpretive Center, a Learning Campus, trail improvements and signage, and dune restoration.

### Fun sustainability facts:

- Gulf State Park’s Interpretive Center and Lodge are the first two commercial buildings in the world to achieve Fortified Commercial™ certification.
- The project’s Interpretive Center is the first building in Alabama to pursue LBC certification, and it features a rainwater collection and treatment system, a solar PV system and an “educational porch” with interpretive displays for visitors.
- Gulf State Park’s Lodge is LEED Gold certified, the Interpretive Center is on track to be LEED Platinum certified and the Learning Campus is LEED Silver certified.
- The park consists of nine ecosystems including three freshwater lakes, two miles of beaches and maritime forests. This biodiversity provides a habitat for several endangered species, including the Alabama beach mouse.

## Elizabeth River Project Resilience Lab

Norfolk, Virginia

**2022**  
(Estimated completion date)



Photo credit: Work Program Architects



Photo credit: Work Program Architects

Built intentionally on the urban floodplain, Elizabeth River Project’s (ERP) net-zero Resilience Lab will raise awareness around flooding. Standout features of the 6,460 square-foot facility will include offices, meeting areas, and education and recreation spaces.

### Fun sustainability facts:

- ERP’s Resilience Lab, which will be the first light commercial Earthcraft Gold Certified building in Virginia, will be the only green building in the region that emphasizes practical approaches that can be replicated by local homes and businesses.
- The lab will feature amphibious storage buildings with floating foundations, a living shoreline that will absorb flooding, and a circular boardwalk for visitors to walk above the wetlands and living coastline.
- A 40kW roof-mounted solar array will supply power to the building. Green walls will provide passive shading and reduce energy usage.
- A floating dock will cater to local college students and other partner organizations conducting environmental research.

## Beazley River Academy Addition

Portsmouth, Virginia

**2022**  
(Estimated completion date)



Photo credit: Dills Architects



Photo credit: Dills Architects

Fred W. Beazley River Academy (Beazley Academy) opened in 2018 and features enclosed classroom and work spaces for ERP’s education team to further its mission—teaching individuals of all ages about restoring urban rivers to environmental health. ERP recently decided to add a 2,240 square-foot addition to Beazley Academy, which will house additional flex-work student space with open work stations, private offices and an outdoor shower.

### Fun sustainability facts:

- Beazley Academy has a solar electric system that features roof solar panels and passive solar features, including specially designed windows and a roof overhang.
- Native plants surrounding the building don’t require excessive fertilizing or maintenance in order to thrive.
- Permeable outside surfaces around the building allow water to seep into the ground instead of running off into adjacent wetlands.
- The facility features a concrete floor that stays cool in the summer but absorbs and holds solar warmth in the winter.

## C.T. Douglas and Gates Elementary Schools

Acton, Massachusetts

**2023**  
(Estimated completion date)



Photo credit: Arrowstreet



### Fun sustainability facts:

- 100 percent of the energy consumed on site will be provided by roof and site-mounted PV arrays.
- 100 percent of the project’s non-potable water demand will be met through rainwater capture. The project’s grey and blackwater will be recharged to the ground through a septic system.
- 95 percent of the total waste generated on site will be diverted from landfills.
- High-efficiency geothermal equipment will provide heating and cooling for the school.