Recycled and recyclable materials are used whenever possible, supporting the facility's commitment to sustainability.

Living Green

Sustainability Base's interior design focuses on the productivity and comfort of the residents and includes architectural features and furnishings in keeping with the building's goals of resource and energy saving. Recycled and recyclable materials are used whenever possible, supporting the facility's commitment to sustainability. For example, the elegant and durable 1" (2.54 cm) thick tongue-and-groove oak floor in the central atrium was recovered from the demolition of the 14-Foot Wind Tunnel. Waste generated by the residents' activities is recycled, and refuse collected in 'landfill' and 'recyclable' streams.

Up to half the energy consumed by a high-performance building is attributable to plug load, the electricity used by everything that is plugged in. In Sustainability Base, we share networked copiers and printers, encourage the transition to digital documents, and minimize personal devices wherever possible. We are also a test bed for research on minimizing plug loads through programmable controllers, energy-smart purchasing, and aligned resident choices.

There are few private offices: Work areas are predominantly open and collaborative, with both scheduled and on-demand 'huddle' rooms and conference facilities of varying sizes, in addition to quiet study and library areas. Teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing services facilitate interactions with telecommuting employees and other remote collaborators. Individual workspaces provide ergonomic seating and fully height-adjustable worktables--because people come in different sizes, and may like to break up periods of sitting by standing. Sectional dividers are uniformly 42 inches (107 cm) to allow daylight to penetrate from windows on both sides of the building. The large windows give the residents uninterrupted views. Residents on the ground floor have extra-high ceilings while those on the second floor enjoy skylights; both design choices maximize sunlight.

Whether inside or outside, Sustainability Base's 'native-to-place' design lets residents enjoy both natural lighting and fresh air. In our comfortable California climate, working outside, with power outlets and wireless communication, is often an attractive choice. Rooftop air handlers bring in cool nighttime air and subfloor spaces throughout Sustainability Base store and re-supply this fresh air for ventilation and humidity control during daytime hours. Indoor air quality is also positively affected by the choice of non-toxic furnishings and cleaning products. Windows in the bottom row on each floor can be manually opened, while those in the upper row are automatically operated by the building's comfort control systems. Vines trained to climb the exterior elements create shade and visually join the facility with its surrounding landscape. Landscaping choices and expansive views contribute to a sense of biophilia, the connection between humans and their natural environment.