



Living Future Project Accelerator

Did you know that there's a certified Living Building in Sacramento? This is something to be proud of, and we wanted to amplify its success to encourage other developers, builders, designers and architects to take on the Living Building and Living Community Challenges—the most rigorous of “green” building standards.

Living Buildings generate and store their own renewable, non-fossil power; capture rainwater; treat their wastewater onsite; grow organic food and use local, non-toxic materials. Plus, these buildings are required to perform as designed for one full year before they're certified, meaning all the planned benefits actually come to life.

Living Buildings are not just “less bad” than conventional buildings—these standards support regenerative development and have a positive impact on human health and on the environment. Living Communities do all this, and more, for multiple buildings on a campus or in a neighborhood.

The Living Building in Sacramento is the local office of architectural firm Arch Nexus, and is also the first certified adaptive reuse project in the world.



To support this effort, SMUD collaborated with staff from the International Living Future Institute and Arch Nexus. Together we offered free training sessions, building tours, technical assistance and, when feasible, focused design meetings to share information about the Living Future frameworks.