

# Going Green at Rasmussen College

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At Rasmussen College, you see a lot of green. It's not only one of the school's main colors, but staying eco-friendly or "green" is something Rasmussen College tries to implement at all 22 of its campuses. The college is focusing on energy management, lighting, and small steps to become more environmentally friendly and make smarter sustainable decisions.

## Energy Management:

Many of the Rasmussen College campus buildings have a Building Management System (BMS). It's a computer-based system that controls and monitors a building's mechanical and electrical equipment. Mandy Yang, a real estate manager at Rasmussen College says it's been very affective in managing temperatures and keeping our buildings running efficiently.

"Those campuses with a BMS run more efficiently and have reduced our electricity and gas usage," said Yang, "and that has saved Rasmussen College money."

## Lighting:

New light bulbs have also saved energy across Rasmussen College campuses. Within the last six months, Yang says the [Rasmussen College Brooklyn Park/Maple Grove campus](#) switched all of its 32 Watt light bulbs with 25 Watt bulbs. Whenever possible, Yang says Rasmussen College also tries to use LED bulbs. The problem though is that not all of the school's light fixtures are made for LED bulbs.

## LEED for Rasmussen College:

The [Rasmussen College Bloomington campus](#) moved into the LEED Gold [Two MarketPointe](#) office development in February of 2011.

"We saw this as a great opportunity to go green," said Yang. The building's floor-to-ceiling windows provide better daylight, which results in reduced energy use. The lobby flooring is made from recycled material, and the building has an [under floor air delivery system \(UFAD\)](#), which reduces the mixing of airborne pollutants and generates major energy services.

## The Little Things:

From using coffee mugs to recycling, Rasmussen College encourages its students and faculty to do the little things. Yang says some campuses have done away with Styrofoam coffee cups all together. Students can do the same for textbooks.

"Why not share textbooks," said Yang. "They're not only expensive, but textbooks consume many resources and use a lot of paper. Students should also take advantage of any eBook options when available." Rasmussen College also encourages its students and faculty to recycle, and they've made it easy. Every campus has recycling bins in several locations. Finally, some of the best green initiatives come from the students themselves.

"Some of our campuses have started groups that educate others on protecting the environment," said Yang. "It's encouraging to see our students taking ownership of their campuses and making an effort to reduce their carbon footprint."

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