



New ECU dining hall is going green

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, November 26, 2009

The new dining hall at East Carolina University will be the first building on campus to comply with strict green building techniques.

The Croatan Building, currently under construction on the eastern side of the main campus near Brewster and the Rivers buildings, will be certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building by the U.S. Green Building Council if it meets all requirements.

"ECU is committed to designing and building facilities that are sustainable and aesthetically pleasing," said ECU spokesman John Durham. "It is critical that all new facilities and all existing buildings that are undergoing renovation be designed and constructed to the highest possible environmental standards to reduce recurring operating cost and minimize environmental impact."

The 18,000-square-foot building will replace the previous Croatan Building, which was less than 6,000 square feet, and house a large Chick-fil-A franchise and a Chili's Too franchise.

The new building is expected to open in January 2011. The original structure was built in 1970.

The \$8.2 million building is being funded with dining receipts, said Gina Shoemaker, interim assistant director for engineering and architectural services.

All construction debris from the site will be recycled and nothing that leaves the site can go to the landfill to meet the LEED requirements, she said.

Trees removed from the site for construction of the new building are being sent to a chipper to create mulch, and all metal leaving the site will be recycled, Shoemaker said. Recycled metal will be used in the new building, and it also will include a cistern to collect water to reduce storm water runoff from the site.

The area behind the building, which was largely covered by brick, will include more trees in the future.

"Now it will be more of a natural area with one sidewalk going toward the Rivers Building," Shoemaker said.

The new building and restaurants are expected to increase traffic in the building. Before closing, the Croatan served about 3,000 people every day.

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