HARVARD
Office for Sustainability

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE BUILDING STANDARDS SUMMARY

This is a short summary of Harvard University Sustainable Building Standards (SBS) for new construction or gut renovations. Please refer to the full SBS for more details and guidance.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

New Construction & Gut Renovations ≥20,000 SF	New Construction & Gut Renovations <20,000 SF
Living Building Challenge Core Green Building certification	No certification is required

HARVARD REQUIREMENTS (Applies to all projects regardless of certification requirement)

HEALTH

1. **Harvard Healthier Building Academy (HHBA):** 14 product categories.
2. **Enhanced Indoor Air Quality Strategies: See requirements guidance for full details.**
   - A. Ventilation for Human Health. Size ventilation systems to exceed the current version of ASHRAE 62 ventilation rates by 75% following the ventilation rate procedure, up to a 5% total energy penalty. Labs (e.g., high ventilation spaces) are not applicable.
   - B. Air Filtration. MERV 13 or higher filters.
   - C. Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan, per LEED v4.1 credit requirements

CLIMATE

1. **Aligned with the energy code and to future-proof buildings to be fossil fuel-free within the building boundary:** No new, on-site, combustion-based equipment or systems may be included in the project scope of work. See requirements guidance for full details.
2. **Embodied Carbon:** Applies to projects pursuing life cycle assessment.
   - A. Reduce embodied carbon of primary materials by at least 20% and track and report actual A5 on-site construction emissions.
   - B. Use non-fossil fuel-based, supplementary cementitious materials (e.g., ground glass pozzolan) in concrete mix designs.
3. **Refrigerants:** Massachusetts regulatory requirements provided in EH&S guidelines.
4. **Commissioning:** Enhanced Commissioning, per LEED v4.1 credit requirements.
5. **Resilient to Future Climate:**
   - A. Climate Resilience Plan: Aligned with requirements in Boston and Cambridge green building zoning, develop a climate resilience plan based on site-specific vulnerabilities to extreme heat, increased precipitation, and sea level rise/storm surge, per publicly available future climate information. See requirements guidance for full details.
   - B. Design for Future Climate: Discuss and agree on peak heating and cooling design temperatures with Building Owner. See requirements guidance for full details.

Note: Meet with the Office for Sustainability (OFS) on requirements with the OFS logo

Refer to Appendix A for bird-friendly design guidance.