



Headquarters Expansion & Renovation

The Becker Center for Conservation at the Cox Reservation has served as Greenbelt's headquarters since the renowned artist Allyn Cox donated the property in 1974. Located along Route 133 in Essex Massachusetts, it includes 27 acres of fields, salt marsh and trails along the Essex River. The farmhouse that houses our offices was built circa 1785 by William Burnham and the Studio Barn was constructed in 1863.

The centuries-old headquarters building underwent expansion and renovation in 2007, gaining a gold-level [LEED certification](#) rating by the U.S. Green Building Council for its leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Many green features were introduced in the renovation including:

- Locally sourced flooring materials (wood and slate) were used, and the original kitchen's floorboards were recycled into conference room tables and office desks.
- New efficient HVAC was installed, as well as new electrical and plumbing systems.
- 1,000-gallon rainwater recapture system was designed to supply recycled non-potable water to the building, where it is used to flush toilets.
- Highly-rated spray foam insulation and new windows with insulated glass were installed throughout the entire building.
- Low VOC paint, natural or recycled carpet materials, and natural woven fiber wallpaper were used. Not only is food waste and other organic matter composted, but compostable products are used at Greenbelt events whenever possible.

Greenbelt's efforts to incorporate sustainable practices have continued since the renovation. The property now boasts solar panels and electric car charging stations among its more recent improvements.

