



2.6 Biodiversity

SAS is careful to minimize impact on biodiversity and surrounding habitats as it grows and expands its operational footprint. SAS adheres to the US Green Building Council LEED® guidelines for protecting natural environments and promoting biodiversity in areas where the company operates. Of approximately 900 acres at SAS headquarters, about 100 acres feature buildings, roads or other impervious surfaces. The remaining 800 acres are retained as old-growth woodland, lakes and streams, farmland, natural areas and approximately 60 acres of maintained lawns, primarily for employee recreation and landscaping.

The company applies LEED best practice guidelines for new and existing building projects, smart land use planning and campus landscaping, such as:

- Preserving large areas of open space in construction projects to minimize disruption to local ecosystems.
- Reducing the heat island effect by installing white reflective materials and planting sedum on rooftops. Sedum increases insulation, minimizes stormwater runoff and provides habitat for wildlife.
- Collecting rainwater from rooftop systems, retention ponds and cisterns to minimize stormwater runoff and provide water for landscape irrigation.
- Harvesting timber from construction sites so artisans can craft unique pieces of furniture and accent walls for buildings.
- Restoring land disturbed by construction projects with native and adaptive drought-tolerant plants that help local ecosystems thrive and reduce dependence on water and chemicals.
- Growing local produce for SAS cafeterias in on-site gardens.

2017 Data

SAS achieved LEED certification for its largest office building and data center at world headquarters. Adoption of green building practices included a substantial effort to minimize environmental impact for both construction and ongoing operation. Building design and construction processes ensured a minimal site footprint, higher than mandated erosion and stormwater controls, reduced heat island impact, maximized green space, use of native and drought-tolerant plants, and more.