

Entry

Floor 🌱

When ICS acquired the Community Garden House in February 2012, the pipes had burst and the floor was in need of remodeling. This sent us on a journey to repair the whole home with sustainability solutions. Starting with the floor, we sought bamboo, which grows more rapidly than hardwood. This means less ecological disturbance when bamboo is harvested. This particular bamboo was harvested in the Carolinas.

Lowe's, \$1,555 (with installation: \$3,678)



Paint 🌱 🌱

Our cheery yellow paint contains no volatile organic compounds (VOCs), harmful chemicals that create noxious smells. The paint is made by a woman-owned company in Oregon called YOLO Colorhouse.

Home Depot, \$36 per gallon



Fans 🌱 🌱

These aluminum fans use biomimicry - design that mimics nature - for maximum efficiency. They are modeled after maple seed pods and called "Sycamore Fans." We inquired about the fans with one of few authorized distributors of this design, Dan's Fan City; when Dan heard that we were the ISU Sycamores, he offered to trade us one fan for an ISU Sycamores baseball cap. We thought that was a good trade! This design is significantly more expensive than a regular fan, but because of its increased efficiency, it pays for itself in 3 years.

Dan's Fan City, MO, \$650/fan



Bathroom

Shower 🌱 🌱

The house once had a large shower, which had to be removed to meet ADA standards. We decided to replace it with a smaller shower to encourage commuting via bicycle; once a cyclist reaches the garden house, he or she can freshen up before work or school. Cyclist showers are eligible for LEED points.

Menards, \$805



Re-used bathroom fixtures 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱

The toilet, toilet paper dispenser, sink, soap dispenser, and paper towel dispenser were re-purposed from ISU's Statesman Towers, which are slated to be demolished.

Free



Bathroom floor 🌱 🌱

The bathroom floor tiles contain 40% recycled content. This may not sound like much, but current tile technology maxes out at 60% recycled content; after that, the tile is too low quality.

American Tile (Terre Haute),

\$6.27 per square foot (total: \$340)

Criteria

- We strove to uphold the following principles for sustainable purchasing:
- **Local:** Goods purchased closer to home require less energy to transport and keep money in the local economy.
- **Energy:** Products should be energy efficient.
- **Health:** Items should promote human health.
- **Environment:** Items should do as little harm to the environment as possible.
- Often, these items were not just competitively priced, but cost less than mainstream products.
- Look for the colored leaf 🌱 to match each product with its sustainability principals.

Research Area

Re-used furniture 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱

All office furniture was re-purposed from ISU's Statesman Towers.

Free



Lighting 🌱 🌱

The main light fixtures in the building are Good Earth lights, an Energy Star rated brand. The lights were produced in Wheeling, IL, just over the Indiana border.

Lowe's, \$26 per light



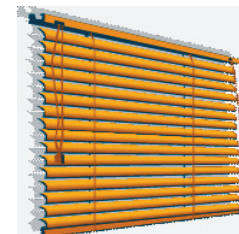
The lights above the kitchen counter are LED lights. Over their lifetime, LED lights cost 90% less to operate than traditional incandescent bulbs.

Lowe's, \$9 per bulb

Blinds 🌱

The window shades are made from bamboo and reed, which are rapidly renewable materials.

Lowe's, ~\$275 per blind



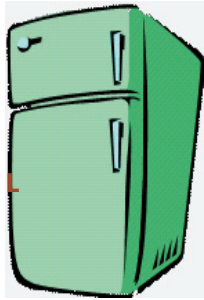
Deck 🌱

A 1,700 square foot deck is the most recent addition to the house. The deck boards are made from a high recycled content plastic that withstands weathering better than wood. The "butterfly" roof is designed to capture rainwater, which gets stored in Big Bertha, our 525 gallon water barrel. Capturing rainwater helps to prevent combined sewage overflow events, which are harmful to human and environmental health. The deck was built for use as an outdoor classroom, shaded space for workers in the ISU community garden, and a gathering space.

Lowe's, funded by Lilly Endowment



Kitchen



Appliances

The microwave and refrigerator are both Energy Star rated appliances. Energy Star is an EPA designation for energy and cost efficiency.

Microwave: Lowes, \$400

Fridge: Lowes, \$1100

Woodwork

The wood used for the cabinetry and work table is hickory, harvested in Rockville, IN. A an Amish carpenter from Rockville crafted both by hand; this was quite a feat, as the ceiling is about 2 inches higher on one side of the kitchen than the other.



Countryside Cabinetry, \$4,340



Cabinet Knobs

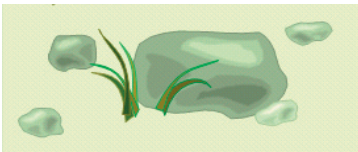
The cabinets' handles are made of recycled window glass by St. Vincent Catholic Charities in Oregon.

Aurora Glass, \$12 each

Countertop

Our countertop is made from a remnant piece of granite - essentially a "scrap" piece. By using a remnant, we paid about 1/4 of the retail price.

Custom Stone (Terre Haute), \$717



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*The Community
Garden House:*

*A Sustainable
Model Home*