Completed in 2001, Plant & Environmental Sciences is a 3-story, 126,651-square-foot building that provides state-of-the-art facilities for plant and environmental science research. About 80% of the building is made up of laboratories. It also houses faculty from Crop and Ecosystem Sciences, and Agricultural Plant Biology departments.

The heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system in the Plant & Environmental Sciences laboratories consists of five air handling units (AHUs). The HVAC system is electronically monitored and remotely controlled by Facilities Management with a Building Automation System (BAS). An energy retrofit was performed on the laboratories in 2014, which resulted in 36% total energy savings. During this retrofit, the UC Davis Energy Conservation Office completed temperature setbacks, reduced ventilation rates during occupied hours from ten air changes per hour to six per hour and reduced exhaust velocities established through wind tunnel studies with the UC Davis Aerodynamics Laboratory.

Some of the building’s green features include: occupancy-based lighting and HVAC control for spaces and fume hoods, variable frequency drives (VFD) on exhaust fans, and direct digital controls, low-flow fixtures, non-potable water usage in the cooling towers, and Energy Star computers.

Plant & Environmental Sciences participates in LEED’s High Performance Green Cleaning Program and Green Cleaning Policy to ensure a healthier building environment. The building adheres to the Solid Waste Management Policy. Occupants reported high usage of alternative transportation (bikes, carpooling, and buses) during the transportation study.

Plant & Environmental Sciences’ LEED Gold certification adds to the growing list of LEED-certified buildings at UC Davis.

For more information about UC Davis sustainability actions, please visit:
- sustainability.ucdavis.edu/progress/buildings/ratings.html
- sustainability.ucdavis.edu/action/green_workplace/index.html
- eco.ucdavis.edu
- campusmap.ucdavis.edu/sustainability