



### Learn the **Green Lingo: Photovoltaics (PV)**

**Photovoltaic (PV) Cells** are a common type of solar technology that use semiconductor material to convert sunlight into electricity. Sunlight dislodges electrons from the surface of the PV cell, resulting in electrical current that can be harnessed for power.

PV cells are used at small-scale levels, such as in calculators or watches, and in large-scale applications to supplement the grid. Follow the link below for more.

<http://www.energy.gov/energysources/solar.htm>

### **Green Product of the Month: Green Walls**

Vegetated roofs have become a popular element of green building design as a way to reduce stormwater flow and heat island effects from conventional roofs. While not as common, vegetated walls can provide many similar benefits. Vegetated walls can be used in exterior applications on building facades or as an aesthetic replacement to conventional retaining walls, or in interior applications to improve indoor air quality. They can be irrigated with collected rainwater to help reduce stormwater runoff, or can be used to treat greywater.

EcoWalls LLC, based in New Jersey, is one of a handful of companies that provide products, design, construction, and service of vegetated walls. Visit [www.greenecowalls.com](http://www.greenecowalls.com) for more information.

### **Green at Pare: Project Spotlight**

University of Rhode Island  
Center for Biotechnology & Life Sciences  
Kingston, RI

The Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences (CBLS) is a \$60 million, 140,000-sf classroom and research facility constructed in 2009. It is the first part of a new Health Services Quad at the University of Rhode Island. It received LEED "Silver" Certification from the USGBC.

PARE was involved in the design, bidding, and construction phases of the project, as well as USGBC certification efforts.

Green project elements PARE participated in include:

- Vegetated roof, to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality
- Rain garden, to improve stormwater quality (pictured below)
- Stormwater swales featuring strategic landscaping and natural flow control weirs



### **Green Public Buildings Required in Rhode Island**

A bill signed into law by Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri in November 2009 now requires all public buildings to be designed and constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or equivalent standards. The "Green Buildings Act" applies to new buildings 5,000 square-feet or larger and renovations of at least 10,000 square-feet that entered into design after January 1, 2010. The Rhode Island Department of Administration (DOA) will create new regulations, monitor compliance with the program, and issue annual reports. The DOA will also evaluate projects proposing to use alternative green standards equivalent to LEED, such as "Green Globes".

The text of the bill can be found at the following link: [http://bcap-energy.org/files/RI\\_SB232\\_substituteB\\_passed.pdf](http://bcap-energy.org/files/RI_SB232_substituteB_passed.pdf)

(Cited from Providence Business News article "Bill requires green public buildings", by Chris Barrett, published 11/4/09)