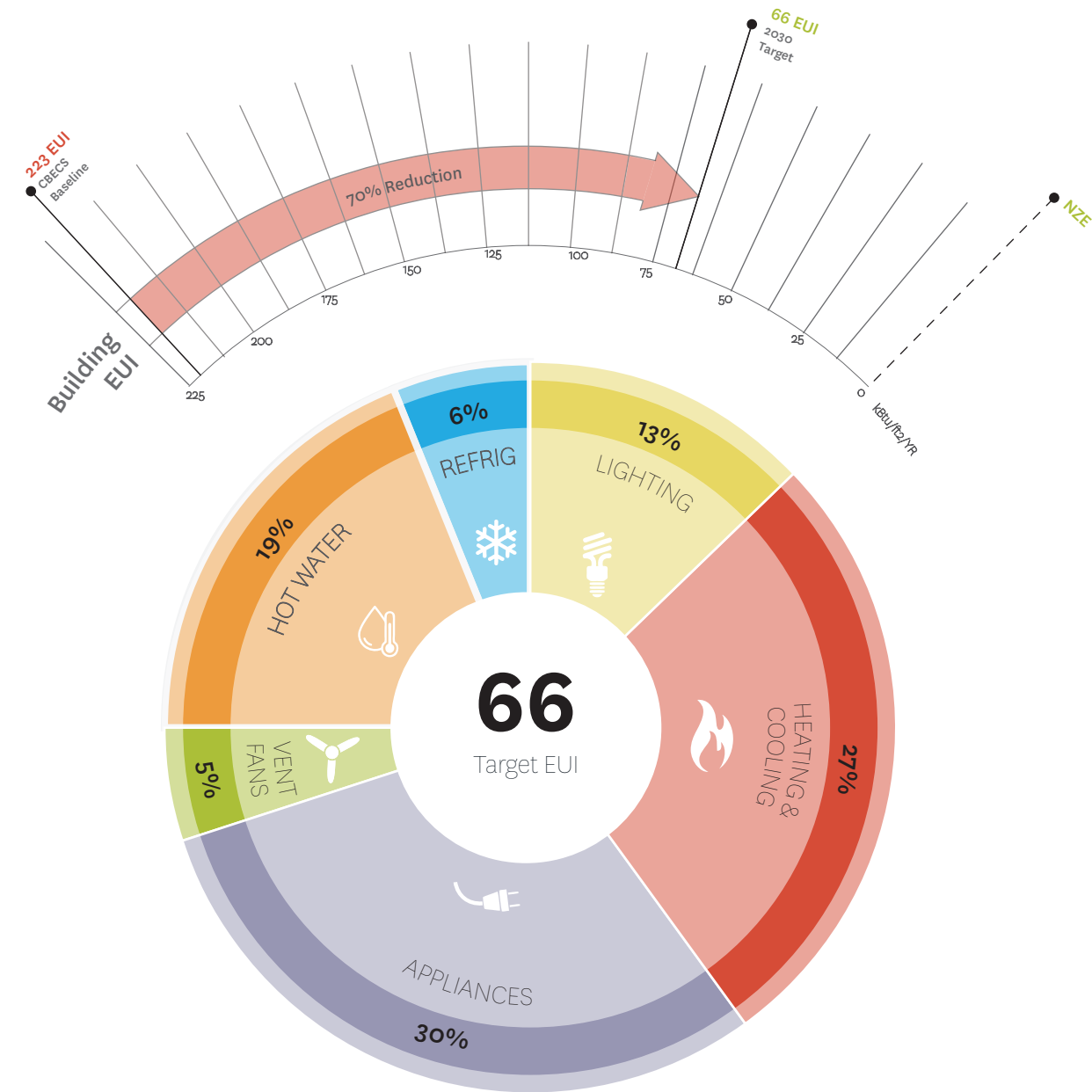


**Canyon Commons Dining Hall**  
**George Fox University**  
 Sustainability Summary

**Project Type:** Higher Education  
**Location:** Newberg, Oregon  
**Built Area:** 30,000 SF  
**Scope:** New Building, completed 2016

**Architect:** Hacker  
**Design-Build Partner:** Andersen Construction



**Design Summary**

George Fox University's new dining hall provides students with dining options around the clock. The building includes a large light-filled dining room with dividable space to serve many different dining and banquet functions. The design focuses on daylighting and natural materials in order to create a facility that feels warm, like home.

The building is designed to tread as lightly as possible (removing minimal trees) and connect to the surrounding forested canyon. Sustainability was important to the client and the design team, but all moves had to be strategic within the tight budget in this design-build project. The team chose to keep the shape of the building simple in order to focus efforts on sustainable, yet practical, measures.

**Key Sustainability Concepts**

Optimal daylighting is one of the most important sustainability concepts integrated by the team. The entire west side of the building is floor to ceiling windows that create a framed, panoramic view of the forest beyond. This connects the occupants inside to the outdoors, while also lowering demand for electric lighting. Daylighting studies showed that while the west windows provide abundant light for the dining hall, sunlight can only penetrate about 25' inside, which would have left the inner spine of the building dark and in need of electric lighting. Instead, the design team created a series of angled skylights down the central corridor. These skylights provide ample light throughout the inner core of the building. They also connect occupants to the sun's path as they can actively watch the cast light change over the course of the day.

The skylights minimize the need for electric lighting in the central corridor during the day.

The use of natural materials is highly important to the overall aesthetic and sustainability of the building. Materials throughout the building's interior and exterior support favorable life-cycle impacts. Heavy glulam beams and local Douglas Fir create the structure of the building while natural wood clads the exterior. The design team chose to polish the concrete floors as opposed to using carpet. This helps keep VOCs at a minimum and provides an easily maintained long-lasting surface. Furthermore, all adhesives and paints throughout the building are Zero VOC.