



PROJECT PROFILE: Clemson University Scores a Sustainable Tennis Facility through Green Globes® Process

"The assessor's walk-through felt relaxed. We were a group of professional colleagues united toward a common goal of being responsible stewards. We had a good conversation about common-sense measures for the project that served the schedule, budget, and the environment."

BRIAN COOPER

Vice President of Operations,
Sherman Construction

PROJECT RATING:



Before they put pen to paper on the 61,200-square-foot Hoke Sloan Tennis Center at Clemson University in South Carolina, the team knew they were reaching for Two Green Globes®. New university facilities must follow the South Carolina Energy Independence Act of 2007, and Green Globes was an expeditious and transparent way to meet these goals.

"The fast turnaround and response with Green Globes were incredible," says Clemson University Project Manager Tommi Jones. "We have to keep contracts open with the design firms and general contractor until the objective is met. Other certification processes can take over a year, so the speed of Green Globes certification was something we all appreciated."

Working through the Green Globes questionnaire together from the project's outset also brought clarity to the owner and design team.

"The early review set the tone and established the expectations of what we all needed to do," recalls Jaime Henderson, associate principal at LS3P Architects. "It wasn't daunting or mysterious, so we knew exactly what it would take to achieve our goals and how much it would cost."



The tennis facility includes six indoor courts, a clubhouse, training and equipment rooms, concessions, and six outdoor practice courts. From day one, Clemson's team proactively integrated sustainable design and construction techniques into the facility:

- The new structure's orientation was rotated 90 degrees from the previous facility for better solar exposure.

- Efficient insulated metal wall panels act as both exterior face and interior skin to minimize interior finishes. They can also be easily dismantled and recycled, which reduces their life-cycle impacts.
- Aging site trees were mulched for slope stabilization.
- All lighting is LED.
- Design allows the indoor tennis area to be opened for a ventilated air-only mode.
- Whole building commissioning and staff training were implemented.

Good Match

“Green Globes seemed like a natural process. It wasn’t something where we just checked a bunch of boxes - all the items suggested were things that made sense for the project,” remarks Brian Cooper, Vice President of Operations at Sherman Construction, the project’s contractor.

As the project progressed, the Assessor was available to respond to questions. “We heard back quickly from the Green Building Initiative and could share the information on how we were doing in our team meetings,” explains Jones. “It kept our goals on the forefront and let us know what we still needed to cover to keep us on track.”

Jones also liked that the team had the chance to actually meet with someone during the onsite walkthrough of the tennis facility. “I was impressed with the thoroughness of our inspection,” she states. “Our Assessor was very interested in the project and really noticed the details. He even gave us tips on what to do with future projects, and these were ideas we could share with our other projects managers.”

Sherman Construction is helping Clemson University with three more Green Globes projects currently: the School of Business, Snow Family Outdoor Fitness and Wellness Center, and Child Development Center. “One of the things I liked about the process was that it inspired team members to go seek Green Globes professional certifications as a result of the project,” says Cooper. In fact, Jones became a Green Globes Professional™ (GGP), which will serve the ongoing projects and meet the university’s aims. Jones’ certification motivated Sherman Construction’s Assistant Project Manager, Richard Dorn, Jr., to achieve GGP certification as well.

The team’s conscientious efforts paid off. Now that the Hoke Sloan Tennis Center has been in use, staff, players and tennis fans have experienced its sustainable features firsthand. I recently spoke with one of the tennis coaches and the facility has had an incredible reception from users,” Henderson remarks. “This is one of the best tennis facilities in the country at the collegiate level.”



GREEN GLOBES RATINGS:

After the final assessment is verified by a third party, properties achieving a score of 35% or higher receive a Green Globes rating based on the percentage of total points achieved (up to 1000).



85-100%

FOUR GREEN GLOBES

Demonstrates world-class leadership in resource efficiency, reducing environmental impacts, and improving occupant wellness.



70-84%

THREE GREEN GLOBES

Demonstrates outstanding success in resource efficiency, reducing environmental impacts, and improving occupant wellness.



55-69%

TWO GREEN GLOBES

Demonstrates significant achievement in resource efficiency, reducing environmental impacts, and improving occupant wellness.



35-54%

ONE GREEN GLOBES

Demonstrates a strong commitment to resource efficiency, reducing environmental impacts, and improving occupant wellness.