Halstead New England’s Innovation and Design Center in Georgia may only be 6,700 square feet, but the building plays a significant role for the international company. The facility houses a customer service call center, offices, and includes space to showcase new designs and products to customers—and it has become a touchstone for Halstead’s New England sustainable building program.

“In general, the bigger the building, the easier it is to add green building features and gain certification points,” notes Johnathan Stone, Halstead New England’s project manager. “We packed sustainable features into this smaller facility to achieve great things.”

Stone’s multi-discipline team had extensive experience in green building design and construction, but the center was their first foray into Green Globes certification. “I was astounded how easy and reasonably priced it was, and the contractors and architects loved it,” says Stone. “Green Globes made different avenues available to achieve points so we could do the right thing without being limited to one pathway.”

“Our Green Globes Assessor helped us get to the rating we wanted and do it the smart way. We received advice and options for enhancing the building early on so we could make changes before it got too costly.”

JOHNATHAN STONE, Halstead New England’s Project Manager
Stone says having one point of contact throughout the Green Globes process was invaluable. He appreciated that the team knew where they stood in terms of the rating and didn’t have to deal with the frustrations of changing committee members. “Our assessor knew our project from the planning stage through completion,” describes Stone. “He examined our initial self-assessment and drawings then offered suggestions and answered our questions. He did a phenomenal job.”

Working with the assessor spurred new ideas for the team as well. “It opened our eyes on the design side to things we hadn’t considered. For example, our original design was a two-story building but we switched to a single-story structure with high ceilings in some places to gain a better building envelope,” recalls Stone. “We also ended up with a full LED-light package, a bicycle rack for employees and better finishes based on our assessor’s feedback.”

Now, Halstead New England is taking what it learned through its Green Globes certification and implementing whatever items it can into upgrades of its other facilities. The company also is looking into an expansion of the center’s solar power generation.

“We learned a lot during the process,” Stone says. “We are always seeking innovations and working to improve our products. In fact, our company is founded on innovation, a family atmosphere and sustainable mindset. Green Globes fits right into that. We are a Green Globes customer for life.”