

Solar-Powered Hotel at Oberlin Is First in US to Be Heated and Cooled with Geothermal Energy

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The sleepy town of Oberlin, Ohio is primarily known for being home to an historic college of the same name, but its reputation may be refreshed by the addition of a new [LEED-certified](#) hotel. The [Hotel at Oberlin](#), whose profits will establish scholarships for students of Oberlin College, celebrated its opening this month. The hotel has a host of sustainable features, ranging from [solar power](#) to geothermal heat, as well as reclaimed building materials and locally-sourced foods in the onsite restaurant, making it an environmental star in the heartland.

Designed by Chicago-based architecture firm [SCB \(Solomon, Cordwell, Buenz\)](#), the Hotel at Oberlin boasts a special accomplishment for its sustainable construction. The hotel is one of only five in the nation designed to meet the [LEED Platinum](#) standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council, and is the only such hotel owned by a college. The hotel is also reportedly the first in the country to be fitted with radiant heating and cooling that relies on geothermal energy, which is much more environmentally friendly than forced air systems. The hotel will also derive electricity from [solar panels](#) to further reduce its reliance on grid power, aiming for net zero energy status.
