Abstract: In 2008, Clemson enacted the Sustainable Energy Policy to reduce energy consumption by 20% before 2020. To substantiate this goal, Clemson built Lee Hall III, a building that will create as much energy as it consumes. The building teaches sustainability by example.

Lee Hall’s energy model indicates that it will perform 50% better than its design baseline (ASHRAE 90.1 – 2007). In fact, Lee Hall uses a comprehensive radiant slab cooling system in a mixed-humid climate. Additionally, a closed-loop geothermal heat pump offsets the entire heating and cooling load. It is also one of the first buildings worldwide to incorporate a comprehensive radiant slab cooling system.

Lee Hall’s 30,000 sf Garden Roof is engaged in how the building functions. Using this system, occupants are provided with cross-ventilation of outside air. When outdoor conditions permit (in Clemson this is a surprising 53% of the number of hours in a year), windows are automatically opened to provide cross-ventilation of outside air.

Question: What leads sustainability change: policy from administration, or action from community?