The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest marks a new gateway in bringing Vermont vernacular and historic buildings up to the sustainability standards so critical to our future. In renovating the nearly 14,000 square foot building, Middlebury for the first time tested the feasibility of third-party certification for its sustainable building practices by registering for certification from the US Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. These efforts were rewarded when the building was certified with a Platinum Rating in October 2008 by the USGBC. At the time, Hillcrest was only the 7th Platinum-rated building in the United States.

**Completed:** June 2007  
**Total Square Footage:** 13,707 sf  
**Project Cost:** $4,000,000  
**Project Manager:** Mark Gleason  
**Architect:** SAS Architects, Burlington, VT  
**Construction Manager:** HP Cummings Construction, Woodsville, NH  
**Awards:**  
USGBC – LEED for New Construction  
LEED Platinum - October 2008  
Efficiency Vermont, Better Buildings by Design Conference, 2009  
Best Energy-Conscious Design  

For more on this project and its sustainable features,