The Centre of Excellence was conceived to meet the needs of trades people, site managers and construction workers who are skilled in the practices of sustainable building. It includes classrooms, workshops, administrative offices, commercial offices, fitness center, computer and demonstration labs, study spaces and gathering spaces.

The building is designed to the standards of the Living Building Challenge, a program that promotes the most advanced measurement of sustainability in the built environment possible today. It includes net-zero energy and water consumption, and several other environmental considerations. In addition to meeting the Living Building Challenge, the architects and operators are pursuing LEED platinum certification. They also captured a 2012 Green GOOD DESIGN Award, 2011 TechGREEN Award and 2011 PowerSense Conservation Excellence and Leadership Award.

“Because the Centre of Excellence is a net-zero building, it was critical to select low-E glass that offers the maximum daylight penetration but controls solar heat gain,” explained Tim McLennan, MRAIC, partner at CEI Architecture.

CEI Architecture selected Guardian SunGuard SuperNeutral 68, triple glazed for the project’s 20,000 square feet of exterior glass. The high-performance characteristics of SunGuard SN68 contribute to the net-zero energy consumption of the building.

SunGuard SuperNeutral 68 is part of Guardian’s advanced architectural glass family, which offers a variety of appearance and light transmission options with outstanding solar energy control. The center of glass values are; visible light transmission of 61 percent, solar heat gain coefficient of .34 and U-value of .18. Its neutral appearance is similar to clear uncoated glass.