

SPRAY FOAM SUCCESS STORY



PROJECT TYPE

→ New Construction

Addition
Renovation

SPRAY FOAM TYPE

Open-Cell, Low-Density

→ Closed-Cell, Medium-Density

Closed-Cell, High-Density

SPF APPLICATION

Ceilings

→ Walls (Interior)

→ Walls (Exterior)

Floors

Slabs

Foundations

Roof Decks (Underside)

Roofing

BUILDING NAME

Bluegrass Community and
Technical College's Newtown
Classroom Building

LOCATION

Lexington, Kentucky

SQUARE FOOTAGE

92,240

SPF COMPLETION DATE

2013

OWNER

Bluegrass Community and
Technical College

SPF Insulation Gets High Marks for Energy Efficiency

Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) is one of the largest two-year colleges in Kentucky. Recognizing a need for growth following its partnership with the state, the City of Lexington, the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, BCTC announced a major expansion plan in May 2010. The 20-year master plan included the transformation of the former Eastern State Hospital site into the college's Newtown Campus, which will eventually consist of 14 to 17 buildings. BCTC wants the highest level of energy efficiency and healthy building performance for its new campus, and recognized the role spray polyurethane foam (SPF) could play in helping reach its goal.

Room to Grow

BCTC broke ground on the first new campus classroom building in August 2011. The college wanted the building to meet the highest performance measures for efficiency, so the contractor looked for ways to earn credits for green building certification. With a building design consisting of unconventional geometrical shapes, they recognized the challenge of insulating the 92,240-square-foot building. The contractors turned to SPF, a durable insulator that would be flexible enough to seal seams and joints in the unique building design.

The contractors used closed-cell foam on the walls of the building, because it provides great insulation, structural support and a vapor barrier that would allow the building to meet high energy efficiency standards. SPF's versatility as both insulation and a sound barrier also made it a great choice for the unconventional geometric building shapes and classroom functions.

Looking Ahead

The Newtown Campus opened its doors to students in time for the start of the college's fall 2013 semester. Students may not think about energy efficiency, but they will be sure to notice the comfortable spaces where they will be learning. BCTC Dean of Operations Rob Knight is happy with the renovations:

"We are going through our first winter in the completed building; an extreme one for this area. We are very happy with how tight the building has proven to be and the resulting energy savings. We know the spray foam insulation is a major contributor to this success."

This award-winning SPF installation helped the building achieve green building certification by making the building envelope more efficient. Looking ahead, the college will be renovating many existing structures on the campus as well as breaking ground on new buildings.

