The Tahoe Center for Environmental Studies (TCES) owned by the Sierra Nevada College (SNC) was designed by Reno-based Lundahl and Associates architectural firm.

In early 2005, the trustees of SNC decided that the Tahoe Center should be built to the highest environmental standards and registered their project for LEED certification with the goal of achieving a platinum rating.

The building has a number of different systems, including a Capstone C30 microturbine that interact with each other to achieve excellent energy efficiency. The microturbine works in conjunction with a heat exchanger to produce electricity and hot water to heat the building.

This microturbine operates at an elevation of 6,300 feet above sea level.

A Capstone C30 microturbine helps the Tahoe Center for Environmental Studies in California achieve LEED certification.