Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies (KCES) “Treasure Hunt”

Please work with 1 to 3 other students and answer the questions in the spaces below (you may not be able to answer… but just try your best and have fun). If there are classes in session in the room which you are visiting, please be respectful, unobtrusive, and just peek through the windows/doors (unless instructor says otherwise).

1) **Go to the Solar Plaza**: What do you notice about the south side of the building? How does passive solar design work in the winter verses the summer? What does “glass, mass, insulation, and orientation” mean?

2) **Go to the Max 1 or 2**: How are these spaces designed for students? Why? What are your impressions of these spaces? Why?

3) **Go to the Large Lecture Classroom (100 seats)**: Name two features in this room that attract your attention and explain why you find these features interesting and/or unique.

4) **Explain the difference** between the back-up heating and cooling systems on the east verses the west side of the KCES. (Recall: What is the primary heating and cooling system of the KCES?)

5) **Go to the SEMP (Statewide Energy Management Lab on the second floor, west side)**: If the temperature of this room was too hot, what would you do first to cool down the room? Second? Third?

6) **Explain three** of the sustainable materials that are used in the KCES. What is your favorite one and why?

7) **Go to the small (50 seats) lecture classroom**: What is the light shelf designed to do?
8) **Go to two of your favorite spaces inside the building.** What are these spaces and why are they comfortable and/or appealing to you?

9) **Go outside to the west** side of the KCES. Why do you suppose the west side is designed this way?  
**Continue outside to the north** side of the KCES. Why do you suppose the north side is designed this way?

10) **Continue looking outside:** What is the outside landscape like, and why? What is the purpose of the *sycamore* trees? The *bioswale*? Why isn`t the entire outside of the KCES “paved”?

11) **Why is the KCES** called a “building that teaches about energy, resources, and stewardship”? What do you think will be the primary teaching and learning method at the KCES? What will this teaching and learning method be like for you?

12) **Go outside to the “pod” area on the east side** (seating areas= five concrete-raised semi-circles): What is unique about them? (Hint: look on the “seats”)

13) **What do you think are the connections** between the KCES, the Cheeseman ESA (Environmental Study Area), energy use, resource use, and biodiversity?

14) **What are three major ways that the sun** is used in the KCES. Explain each.

15) Do you have any other **comments or information** that you would like to share about the KCES?