_case study_
By Emily Rosa

**NASA Sustainability Base - Building N232**

Moffett Field, California

**Architect:** William McDonough + Partners and AECOM

**Owner:** NASA Ames Research Center

**Year of completion:** 2013

**Climate:** Mediterranean Climate

**Material of interest:** Steel, aluminum

**Application:** Exterior

**Properties of material:** The steel and aluminum used were chosen because they had high recycled content and were regionally available, thereby reducing transportation energy. The steel frame is disassemblable and repairable after a seismic event, lightweight insulated panel reduces the amount of material required for construction. Exterior cladding was provided in pre-fabricated unitized components. The light metal and glass building allows enough daylight so that artificial light is only needed 10-20% of the year. Operable windows allow for passive cooling of the building, and photovoltaics on the roof allow the building to generate 30% of its energy.

**Sources:**