



FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

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Are Your Campus Lockers Game-Ready? Q&A with List Industries Reveals the Questions You Should Be Asking

BY LIST INDUSTRIES

Locker rooms and storage areas may not always be the first features discussed in campus facility planning, but they play an important role in supporting student life, recreation programs, and institutional sustainability goals. From the materials used in locker construction to the design of modern athletic and recreation spaces, today's private colleges are looking for solutions that balance durability, environmental responsibility, and an elevated student experience.

In this Q&A, Steve Troyano of List Industries shares insights on the latest trends in sustainable locker construction, lifecycle performance, and the evolving expectations students have for locker room design. His perspective offers facility leaders practical guidance on creating spaces that support campus sustainability initiatives while also enhancing recruitment, comfort, and long-term value.

“Green” Locker Construction

Q: What materials are currently leading the market in sustainable locker construction, and

how do they compare in lifecycle performance to traditional metal or wood lockers?

A: Recycled HDPE and phenolic composites have really taken the lead. They hold up beautifully against moisture, dents, and daily wear—something metal and wood often struggle with over time. Schools love that these materials feel sturdy and stay looking fresh for years.

Q: How should facility managers evaluate recycled content versus long-term durability when selecting locker systems?

A: It's a balancing act. Recycled content is great, but not if the locker falls apart in a few seasons. Most managers find that choosing the option that lasts longer—and needs fewer replacements—is the greener decision in the long run.

Q: What role do rapidly renewable materials, FSC-certified wood, or recycled HDPE play in modern locker manufacturing?

A: These materials send a strong message: the school cares about responsible sourcing. They also perform well in high-use environments, giving campuses both sustainability and reliability. The downside is that the cost of the lockers would increase considerably.

LEED & Certification Alignment

Q: How can locker systems contribute to LEED v4.1 certification or other campus sustainability benchmarks?

A: Locker systems can support LEED efforts by using low-emitting materials, recycled content, and clear documentation like EPDs. It's a simple way for facilities to rack up points without major construction changes.

Q: Beyond LEED, what environmental product declarations (EPDs), HPDs, or GREENGUARD certifications should facility leaders be asking for?

A: EPDs and HPDs offer transparency about what's in the materials, while GREENGUARD helps ensure the lockers support healthy air quality. These labels give leaders confidence that their selections are safe and responsible.

Indoor Environmental Quality

Q: How do locker materials impact indoor air quality, particularly in athletic and recreation facilities where ventilation loads are already high?

A: Materials with low VOC emissions and non-porous surfaces make a big difference. They help reduce odors and keep the space fresher—something students and athletes notice right away.

Durability & Lifecycle Cost

Q: Elite institutions often prioritize long-term value over first cost. How does lifecycle cost analysis change the conversation around “green” lockers?

A: When you look at the full picture—maintenance, repairs, replacements—higher-end sustainable materials often win. Schools realize they save more over time by investing in durable options.

Q: What maintenance factors—such as resistance to moisture, corrosion, and cleaning chemicals—should campuses consider when assessing sustainability claims?

A: Daily cleaning, sweaty gear, and humidity can take a toll. Materials that resist corrosion and stand up to tough cleaning products stay looking good and functioning longer.

Renovation vs. New Construction

Q: In renovation projects, how can sustainable locker systems be integrated into existing infrastructure without increasing waste or



demolition impact?

A: Modular systems make life much easier. They can fit into existing spaces with minimal demolition, keeping waste—and headaches—to a minimum.

Institutional Branding & ESG

Q: How are sustainability-focused locker installations supporting broader ESG reporting and reinforcing an institution's environmental commitments to students and donors?

A: These upgrades show students and donors that the institution walks the talk. Adding sustainable materials makes a visible impact and strengthens ESG storytelling.

Locker Design for Sport, Recreation & Fitness Facilities

Evolving User Expectations

Q: How have student expectations for locker rooms at private colleges evolved over the past decade?

A: Students now expect locker rooms to feel welcoming—almost spa-like. Clean lines,



modern finishes, and spaces that respect privacy matter more than ever.

Q: What design elements are now considered essential in high-end collegiate recreation and athletic facilities?

A: Digital locks, School logos, seat cushions, soft lighting, premium materials, and thoughtful storage layouts help create that polished, high-end feel students love.

Recruitment & Retention Impact

Q: How do well-designed locker rooms influence student recruitment, athlete retention, and overall campus competitiveness?

A: Locker rooms are often part of a student's first impression. When they're modern and comfortable, they signal that the school invests in student wellness and athletic success as the locker room will be their home away from home for four years.

Q: Are you seeing elite institutions use locker room environments as part of their campus tour strategy?

A: Absolutely. Tours often highlight locker rooms because they're a tangible way to show off the campus experience.

Layout & Space Optimization

Q: What are best practices for designing locker layouts that maximize space efficiency while maintaining comfort and privacy?

A: Good flow is everything. Clear walkways meeting egress minimums, smart use of vertical space, and pockets of privacy help create a space that's both functional and comfortable.

Q: How can facilities balance open-concept team locker rooms with the growing demand for individual privacy?

A: Many campuses mix open team areas with small alcoves or privacy zones. It keeps the team feel while giving students their own space when they want it.

Technology Integration

Q: What role do digital locks, smart access control, and mobile credentialing play in modern locker design?

A: These tools make life easier for everyone. No more lost keys—just simple, reliable access.

Q: How should facilities plan for future technology upgrades when designing locker systems today?

A: Choosing modular components keeps upgrades painless. Facilities can add new technology without ripping everything out.

Durability & Performance

Q: In high-traffic recreation environments, what construction features most impact long-term performance and maintenance costs?

A: Moisture-proof and impact-resistant materials hold up best to daily wear and tear. They keep maintenance costs down, too.

Branding & Aesthetics

Q: How are institutions incorporating school colors, logos, lighting, and architectural finishes to create a cohesive and branded locker room experience?

A: Custom colors, logo panels, and LED lighting help create a space that feels uniquely 'theirs.' It gives students a sense of pride every time they walk in.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ed Bauer has been in publishing for over twenty years. He worked on the staff at Mount Union College.