



ABOUT LEED

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The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™, created by USGBC, is a voluntary building certification program that defines high-performance green buildings, which are more environmentally responsible, healthier, and more profitable structures. LEED was created to establish a common standard of measurement for what constitutes a “green” building. LEED serves as a design guideline for green building and offers third party validation of a building’s green features.

LEED evaluates buildings in five areas: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality. Within these credit areas, points are available and depending on the number of points a project earns determines the level of certification the building will be awarded. There are four progressive levels of certification: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED addresses a variety of buildings and building project types through individualized systems, including:

- New Construction
- Existing Buildings
- Commercial Interiors
- Core & Shell
- Homes - *in pilot, to be released summer 2007*
- Neighborhood Development – *in pilot*

In addition, LEED application guides are in development to provide information and instruction about applying the LEED rating system to different building types such as Campuses, Retail, Labs, Healthcare and Schools. The application guides will be available in late 2007.

LEED rating systems are developed through an open, consensus-based process in USGBC committees. Each volunteer committee is composed of a diverse group of practitioners and experts representing a cross-section of the building and construction industry. Any USGBC member can serve on a committee, and all committee procedures and proceedings are available at www.usgbc.org.

LEED Certification Benefits

LEED certified buildings have lower operating costs, higher lease rates, and happier and healthier occupants than conventionally constructed structures. Certification under LEED is third party validation to the market that a building is green.

LEED Online

The LEED certification and documentation process has been designed to be more user-friendly than ever – the process is now entirely on-line. Projects register their project with an intent to certify before breaking ground. Project teams can submit design phase credits at the early stages and then move to the construction phase,

allowing ongoing feedback to the project throughout the project's progression. This will enable design teams to modify design documents prior to commencing construction, and will give teams and building owners confidence that the project is on track for certification.

Once the building is completed and all the documents have been submitted, the building will be reviewed by USGBC and awarded a LEED certification based on how many points the project earned.

LEED Adoptions

Various LEED initiatives including legislation, executive orders, resolutions, ordinances, policies, and incentives are found in 53 cities and 17 states in the U.S. For a complete list of LEED adoptions please click [here](#).

How the Federal Government uses LEED

There are eleven Federal initiatives in agencies like the Department of Defense, Air Force, Army, Navy, Department of Agriculture- Forest Service, Department of Energy, Department of General Services, Department of State and the Environmental Protection Agency.

LEED Internationally

LEED registered projects are in progress in 30 different countries, including Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and India, to name just a few, and the World Green Building Council—an affiliation of seven national green building councils, including the U.S.--is helping to drive the international dialogue.