

LEED Background Information

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health:

- Sustainable site development
- Water savings
- Energy efficiency
- Materials selection
- Indoor environmental quality

Members of the U.S. Green Building Council representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution. LEED standards are currently available or under development for:

- New commercial construction and major renovation projects (LEED-NC)
- Existing building operations (LEED-EB)
- Commercial interiors projects (LEED-CI)
- Core and shell projects (LEED-CS)
- Schools (LEED for Schools)
- Homes (LEED-H)

LEED provides a complete framework and scoring mechanism (points achievement) for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. A project is a viable candidate for LEED certification if it can meet all prerequisites and achieve the minimum number of points to earn the Certified level of LEED project certification.

Projects are awarded Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum certification, depending on the number of credits they achieve.

Source: <http://www.usgbc.org>



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