

What is LEED®?

LEED® is an international green building standard that the US Green Building Council (USGBC) uses to evaluate and certify the accomplishments of sustainable building projects.

LEED® is pushing the green building industry to go further. Developed in a transparent, consensus-based process that include numerous rounds of public comments and approval from USGBC members, LEED® ensures that leaders can demand more from our buildings, creating healthy experiences, conserving precious resources and operating more cost effectively.



How It Works:

LEED projects earn points across five basic areas that address key aspects of:



The **Sustainable Sites** (SS) category rewards decisions about the environment surrounding the building, with credits that emphasize the vital relationships among buildings, ecosystems, and ecosystem services. It focuses on restoring project site elements, integrating the site with local and regional ecosystems, and preserving the biodiversity that natural systems rely on.*



The **Water Efficiency** (WE) section addresses water holistically, looking at indoor use, outdoor use, specialized uses, and metering. The section is based on an "efficiency first" approach to water conservation. As a result, each prerequisite looks at water efficiency and reductions in potable water use alone. Then, the WE credits additionally recognize the use of nonpotable and alternative sources of water.*



The **Energy and Atmosphere** (EA) category approaches energy from a holistic perspective, addressing energy use reduction, energy-efficient design strategies, and renewable energy sources.*



The **Materials and Resources** (MR) credit category focuses on minimizing the embodied energy and other impacts associated with the extraction, processing, transport, maintenance, and disposal of building materials. The requirements are designed to support a life-cycle approach that improves performance and promotes resource efficiency. Each requirement identifies a specific action that fits into the larger context of a life-cycle approach to embodied impact reduction.*



The **Indoor Environmental Quality** (EQ) category rewards decisions made by project teams about indoor air quality and thermal, visual, and acoustic comfort. Green buildings with good indoor environmental quality protect the health and comfort of building occupants. High-quality indoor environments also enhance productivity, decrease absenteeism, improve the building's value, and reduce liability for building designers and owners¹. This category addresses the myriad design strategies and environmental factors—air quality, lighting quality, acoustic design, control over one's surroundings—that influence the way people learn, work, and live.*

*Learn more at <http://www.usgbc.org/leed>



STUDENT HOUSING LEED FEATURES



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION - PARKING CAPACITY
Reduce parking capacity to minimum local requirements to encourage alternative transportation in order to reduce pollution and land development impacts from automobile use.*



DEVELOPMENT DENSITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY
Projects sited within established communities to channel development to urban areas with existing infrastructure, protect greenfields and preserve habitat and natural resources.*



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS
Develop projects in areas where public transportation is available to reduce pollution and land development impacts from automobile use.*



STORAGE AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES
Provide easily accessible areas where users can dispose of recyclable material. Recycling reduces the use of virgin materials to create new products and the amount of waste being hauled to landfills.*



RECYCLED CONTENT
Selected products throughout the building were manufactured with recycled materials. Use of recycled materials help reduce impacts resulting from extraction and processing of virgin materials.*



WATER USE REDUCTION
Fixtures and appliances were selected based on their water efficiency to help reduce the burden on municipal water supply and wastewater systems.*



WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING
Vegetation used in open spaces requires minimum irrigation to help limit or eliminate the use of potable water.*



OPTIMIZE ENERGY PERFORMANCE
Energy efficient mechanical systems are used to achieve increasing levels of energy performance beyond the prerequisite standard to reduce environmental and economic impacts associated with excessive energy use.*



LOW-EMITTING MATERIALS
Finishes and materials used help reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well-being of installers and occupants.*



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