

UNDERSTANDING

LEED



LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

LEED is a building certification program created by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

LEED Rating Systems



LEED Certification is achieved when building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification.

Points are how a building achieves LEED certification. The more efficient your building, the more points you earn. The more points you earn, the higher the certification level (certified, silver, gold, platinum).

Prerequisite Points

Within each of the seven LEED credit categories, projects must satisfy particular prerequisites and earn points.

LEED Certification Levels



Project Registration Fee

USGBC Member \$450

Non-Member \$600

Certification Fee

Ranges from \$2,250 to \$22,500 based on project size and certification achieved.

LEED CERTIFICATION

Steps to Certification

1. Register Project in Applicable Track (depending on project type)
2. Complete & Document Project Following LEED Guidelines
3. Apply for Certification
4. GBCI Reviews Project
5. GBCI Certifies Project and Awards Based on Points Achieved

LEED Rating System Tracks

- Building Design & Construction (BD+C)
 - New Construction
 - Core & Shell
 - Schools
 - Retail
 - Data Centers
 - Warehouses & Distribution Centers
 - Hospitality
 - Healthcare
- Interior Design & Construction (ID+C)
 - Commercial Interiors
 - Retail
 - Hospitality
- Building Operations & Maintenance(O+M)
 - Existing Buildings
 - Schools
 - Retail
 - Data Centers
 - Hospitality
 - Warehouses & Distribution Centers
 - Multifamily
- Homes
 - Single Family Homes
 - Low-rise Multi-family (1-3 stories)
 - Mid-rise Multi-family (4-6 stories)
- Neighborhood Development (ND)
 - New Land Development Projects
 - Redevelopment Projects

LEED Certification Point Categories



Sustainable Sites



Water Efficiency



Indoor Environmental Quality



Materials & Resources



Energy & Atmosphere



Innovation & Design



Awareness & Education

LEED CREDENTIALS

LEED Professional Credentials

Signify that you're a leader in the field and an active participant in the green building movement.

Types of LEED Professional Credentials

LEED Green Associates

Arms you with a documented, up-to-date understanding of the most current green building principles and practices, and are committed to their professional future.

LEED AP Specialty

Arms you with advanced knowledge in green building as well as expertise in a particular LEED rating system.

- You can become a LEED AP in:
 - Building Design & Construction (BD+C)
 - Interior Design & Construction (ID+C)
 - Building Operations & Maintenance (O+M)
 - Homes
 - Neighborhood Development (ND)



Steps to Earn LEED Professional Credentials

1. Choose LEED Credential Type
2. Prepare and Practice for Exam
3. Register and Schedule Exam

Exams

- LEED Green Associates exam fee: \$200 (\$100 for students, \$250 for non-members)
- LEED AP exam fee: full exam fee: \$400 (\$550 for non-members); Specialty only exam fee: \$250 (\$350 for non-members)

Continuing Education Credits are credits LEED professionals pursue in order to maintain their certification. Must be completed within two years of exam or enrollment date.

WHY CHOOSE LEED?

Environmental Accountability

LEED certification takes into account all of the encompassing pieces of a building. The green building program focuses on energy, indoor air quality, water usage, materials, and the sustainability of the site.

Performance Tracking

LEED helps you establish an energy benchmark for a buildings performance, enabling you to track the performance over time.

Return on Investment

Energy is a high operating cost for commercial buildings. Building owners have an opportunity to save on energy costs by creating high-performance buildings that use less energy to operate and maintain.

Increased Property Value

LEED certification increases property values and LEED buildings have faster lease up rates. The building may also qualify for incentives like tax rebates and zoning allowances

Positive Company Moral

LEED buildings are often built with the comfort of the employees in mind. LEED incorporates large windows, open spaces, improved air quality, and comfortable work areas.