

## U.S. Green Building Council & LEED Frequently Asked Questions

### What is LEED?

The LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations. LEED is transforming the marketplace by providing a nationally recognized certification system to promote integrated, whole-building design practices in the building industry.

### How do I purchase a LEED Reference Guide?

Please visit our [Publications page](#) for product descriptions and to place an order online. A USGBC Web site user account is required to place an order.

### How do I create a USGBC Web site user account?

Please go to the [Site User Registration page](#).

### How do I learn more about the requirements for a particular LEED credit?

If you are looking for more details about a specific LEED credit, please visit our [LEED Rating Systems page](#) for a free download of the rating system of interest.

If you are a member of a project team and require more in-depth information about a specific credit, please go to our [Publications page](#) to purchase a reference guide which contains detailed information on credit requirements, documentation requirements, calculations, referenced standards and other resources.

### Can I get my product or service LEED certified?

USGBC does not certify, endorse or promote products, services or companies, nor do we track, list or report data related to products and their environmental qualities.

LEED is a certification system that deals with the environmental performance of buildings based on overall characteristics of the project. We do not award credits based on the use of particular products but rather upon meeting the performance standards set forth in our rating systems. It is up to project teams to determine which products are most appropriate for credit achievement and program requirements.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit the [Resources for Product Manufacturers and Service Providers page](#).

### Where can I learn more about green materials, manufacturers, and products?

The USGBC does not certify, endorse or promote products, services or companies, nor do we track, list or report data related to products and their environmental qualities.

However, using green products and materials may contribute to a building's LEED Certification. See our [Green Building Links](#) for information from other green building organizations.

### **How can I get my building project LEED certified and how much will it cost?**

Project teams should first register with USGBC; this serves as a declaration of intent to have a project LEED Certified. The most successful LEED project teams report an integrated design process, with LEED in mind from the project's inception.

Additionally, LEED project teams will need to provide documentation from various stages in the project's design and or construction. USGBC encourages project teams to register as early as possible.

For information on registration fees and processes, please visit the [Registration page](#).

For information on certification and the Certification Process, please visit the [Certification Process page](#). This page includes information on submittal requirements, review timelines, appeals, and Credit Interpretation Requests (CIRs).

For information on certification fees, please visit the [Registration page](#).

### **Which Rating System should I use?**

The introductory section of each LEED Rating System provides general guidance for what application is best for that particular rating system. It is possible that your project might be eligible for Certification under more than one rating system. Please review the checklists for each rating system. You can download the checklists from [each rating system's page](#). In order to earn LEED certification, a project must meet all prerequisites and earn the minimum number of LEED credits/points listed on the checklist. Compare your project's projected credit achievement for each applicable rating system. For additional details on the rating system of interest, please go to [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed).

### **What is LEED-Online?**

LEED-Online allows project teams to submit 100% of their documentation online. LEED-Online stores all LEED information, resources, and support in one centralized location. Powered by Adobe LiveCycle technology, LEED-Online enables team members to upload credit templates, view and submit Credit Interpretation Requests (CIRs), manage key project details, contact customer service, and view and respond to reviewer comments.