

What is LEED™ for Homes?



For **HOMEBUILDERS**,
LEED IS A TOOL.

Used to set targets and track progress during the design and construction of a green home.



For **HOMEBUYERS**,
LEED IS SCORECARD.

Like a nutrition label, LEED gives a clear, concise measure of all the ways a green performs at a higher level.



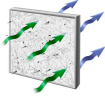
For **RESIDENTS**,
LEED IS A SEAL OF QUALITY.

Like a nutrition label, LEED gives a clear, concise measure of all the ways a green performs at a higher level.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a national third-party certification system that recognizes leadership in green building. It is developed by a consensus process by volunteer members of the U.S. Green Building Council who contribute their expertise to its technical development.

What does LEED measure?

LEED recognizes performance in eight areas:



Indoor Environment Quality -- The quality of the air indoors is often 2 to 5 times worse than outdoor air according to the US EPA. A LEED home is designed to maximize fresh air indoors and minimize exposure to pollutants and toxins.



Sustainable Sites -- During construction and beyond, a home can cause erosion, interfere with natural habitats, and pollute waterways through storm runoff. LEED homes avoid destructive construction practices and have landscaping and other elements that protect the land where the home sits.



Energy Efficiency -- The Average American household spends around \$1,500 every year on energy bills according to the EPA's ENERGY STAR program research. Based on average ENERGY STAR scores of LEED homes built so far, they LEED homes have the potential to use 20-30% less energy, and some up to 60% less, than a home built to the International Code Council's standards for minimum efficiency.



Materials Selection -- The materials and resources that go into a home can be carefully selected from and sustainably harvested, responsibly processed sources - or they can be wasteful and contribute to habitat destruction. LEED homes use recycled, reclaimed, and responsibly obtained materials everywhere possible.



Water Efficiency -- Wasteful water use is both costly and risky, as pollution growth and a changing climate make clean, safe water an increasingly scarce resource. It is also tied directly to wasteful energy use: As much as 1/4-1/2 of the electricity used by most U.S. cities is consumed at municipal and waste water treatment facilities according to the U.S. Department of Energy. LEED homes use innovative strategies to reduce a home's water use to find creative ways to reuse water.



Resident Awareness -- LEED is proactive in educating homeowners and renters about a home's green features and how to get the highest performance from them. A LEED home also stands as an example to the community of a well-built home and encourages others to live the same.



Site Selection -- The old truism about prime real estate - location, location, location - is especially true of green homes. LEED encourages homes to be built close to schools, shopping, work and play transit thereby maximizing your quality of life and reducing the amount of time you waste in traffic.



Innovation -- LEED encourages builders and designers to find innovative ways to increase a home's performance, taking into account local and regional needs and promoting durability for a long-lasting, comfortable home.



Energy Inspectors™... your local LEED™ for Homes Provider.

for more information contact us at

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Why should we consider LEED?

In the U.S., buildings account for:

- 65%** of electricity consumption
- 36%** of energy use
- 30%** of raw materials use
- 30%** of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30%** of waste output
- 12%** of potable water consumption

Green buildings...

Reduce:

- 30-50%** of energy use
- 35%** of carbon emissions
- 40%** of water use
- 70%** of solid waste

Average payback time: **12-24 Months**

Average payback over building lifetime: **20%**

Average cost premium: **1-2%**

RESULTS By using LEED, you can ensure immediate and measurable impact where it really counts: dramatic energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, better indoor air quality, lower operating costs, and a nationally recognized quality seal.

Next Move... Is yours.

THREE STEPS TO LEED CERTIFICATION

- 1. REGISTER YOUR PROJECT** – The first step toward LEED certification is to register your project with USGBC at www.usgbc.org/LEEDregistration. Registration provides access to essential information, resources, and software tools such as LEED - Online. LEED - Online is an interactive project workspace that includes credit templates with specific guidance on how to achieve and document each credit.
- 2. TRACK PROGRESS AND DOCUMENT ACHIEVEMENT** – Your team defines a “project administrator” to serve as the primary liaison between the project team and USGBC. Via LEED - Online, the project administrator can facilitate collaboration with team members, share information and resources, and track progress toward your goal. LEED - Online also makes it easy for your project team to prepare and submit the calculations and documentation required to satisfy LEED’s prerequisites and earn LEED credits.
- 3. GET CERTIFIED** – The certification process is paperless: all documentation and payment can be submitted to USGBC via the Web using LEED - Online. A team of expert certifiers will review your project’s documentation, and your project’s final LEED rating will be awarded within 45 to 90 days of completed submittal. A project might not achieve all the credits it pursues, but almost all projects do achieve their LEED certification goal (i.e. LEED Silver, Gold, Platinum, etc.).

THREE KEYS TO SUCCESS

- 1. START EARLY AND USE INTEGRATED DESIGN** – Establish your project’s sustainability goals at the beginning, pair LEED credit targets with those goals, and engage the entire team in achieving them. The integrated design process - in which the full project team is involved from the start - is an essential foundation for success. Projects that don’t use an integrated design process, or that set their LEED targets after the project is underway, often see an increase in project costs.
- 2. GET A LEED REFERENCE GUIDE** – USGBC publishes LEED reference guides for all available applications of the rating system. Reference guides detail every LEED credit and how to achieve it, and also include practical examples of successful submissions. They are an invaluable tool for project teams, and will help you save time and money. LEED workshops are also available for in-depth training both in person and online.
- 3. GET A LEED AP AND LEED PROVIDER** – LEED Accredited Professionals (LEED APs) must pass a rigorous exam that tests their expertise in LEED. LEED APs can play any role on the project team and may be any of the participating professionals on the project. Having a LEED AP on your project has the additional benefit of earning credit toward LEED certification. Every LEED project must also be registered with a LEED Provider who serves a function of providing quality assurance, regulatory, and consultive support. A LEED provider is required.



A 3-time United States Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Star Partner Of The Year; 2-time Arizona Energy Star Partner Of The Year; California Flex-Your-Power honoree, and the current 2009 EPA Energy Star Partner of the Year, Energy Inspectors™ Corporation is among the leading residential energy efficiency consulting, home energy rating and residential construction quality assurance companies in the United States.

Energy Inspectors™ is also currently the only LEED™ for Homes Provider based out of Las Vegas, NV.

