

LEED-ND ANSI FAQ

- What is ANSI?

The American National Standards Institute is a private, non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards within the United States, as well as coordinates U.S. standards with international standards so that American products are viable in the international market. Through facilitating the development of American National Standards (ANS), ANSI accredits the procedures of standards developers, which requires openness, balance, consensus, and due process. The level of U.S. participation is quite expansive; more than 10,000 American National Standards are now recognized.

- What is an ANSI Standards Developer?

An ANSI Standards Developer has had its procedures for developing a standard approved by ANSI.

- Why is LEED-ND going through the ANSI standard?

ANSI compliance will allow LEED rating systems to be more easily adopted by the Federal government, military, and some state and local governments. It also positions LEED as a national standard which is important to many business decision makers.

- Will this alter how LEED-ND is balloted?

There will still be a "Member Ballot" for the LEED-ND rating system next year, but USGBC is taking the additional set of pre-identifying the "Consensus Body" that will actually vote yes/no during the Member Ballot next year in order to make absolutely certain that the full diversity of planners, designers, community interests, manufacturers, developers and others who will use LEED ND are represented among those casting a ballot for (or against) the final rating system.

- What is a consensus body and why do I need to opt in?

A consensus body is simply the group that will vote yes/no on the rating system. Participation in the consensus body is open to all USGBC primary contacts, but in order to vote, you will need to opt in by February 15, 2009. Opting in allows USGBC to be absolutely certain that the consensus body includes the full range of those who will use the rating system.

- When is the deadline for opting in?

February 15, 2009 is the deadline for opting in to the consensus body.

- Do I have to be a USGBC member (primary contact) to opt-in?

No. A materially affected interest that does not fall within a USGBC membership category may request to be a member of the consensus body within the opt-in period. If you are a materially affected interest that is not a member of USGBC, please fill out the opt-in survey and indicate how you believe your interest is not represented by any current USGBC member category.

All requests will be reviewed by USGBC staff to determine whether the nonmember in fact described a materially affected interest which is not represented by any USGBC member category, and a determination will be made by staff no later than ten (10) calendar days after the close of the opt-in period. All those determined to have described a materially affected interest which is already represented by a USGBC member category will not be permitted to participate in the balloting process. All those determined to have described an interest not currently represented by a USGBC member category will be permitted to participate in the balloting process.

- Since USGBC has created LEED-ND with partners, how will they ballot the rating system?

USGBC worked jointly with the Congress for the New Urbanism and the Natural Resources Defense Council to create the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system. While USGBC will be balloting the rating system through its members and board, CNU and NRDC will also be balloting the rating system in accordance with their own procedures.