



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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LEED® for Retail

What is LEED for Retail?

LEED for Retail consists of two separate rating systems, LEED for Retail: New Construction and LEED for Retail: Commercial Interiors. Both were developed specifically to address the unique nature of a retail facility. The rating systems are just two tools within a suite of LEED assessment instruments developed by the USGBC to promote market transformation through sustainable building practices.

When will LEED for Retail be available for public use?

LEED for Retail is launching in the latter half of 2010. LEED for Retail will be aligned with LEED 2009 and be supported by LEED Online v3, a new user interface for documenting requirements. For more information on LEED Online v3 please visit www.usgbc.org/leedv3

What are the benefits of LEED for Retail?

LEED is a measurable tool that is used to validate the design, construction and operation of a retail facility. With certification comes a potential increase in ROI, sales, customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, and brand equity. Green buildings also reduce operating costs through the decrease in energy and water usage.

How is LEED for Retail different than other LEED rating systems?

The LEED for New Construction and Commercial Interiors Rating Systems were not created for the unique nature of a retail facility. LEED for Retail took many of the existing credits in those rating systems and tailored them to meet the specific needs of a retail facility. The rating system captures both a building's physical systems (equipment, design, land use, etc) as well as its operation (increased sales, employee satisfaction, and customer satisfaction)

A key goal of LEED for Retail is to ensure that the design and construction of a retail space will ensure healthy and efficient operation. So when LEED is applied to new construction and commercial interiors, the one-time act of renovating, constructing or tenant fit-out is certified.

Who should use LEED for Retail?

LEED for retail can be used by everyone from retailers, retail developers and architects to contractors and sub-contractors. LEED applies to the spectrum of facilities ranging from those wanting to identify efficiency improvement opportunities and put in place sustainable policies to those facilities in need of significant system and operational improvements. LEED for Retail can also become a significant component of any organizations sustainability initiatives.



How do I know if LEED for Retail is right for my project?

The project is a viable candidate for LEED certification if it can meet all prerequisites, achieve the minimum points required in a given rating system and meets all minimum program requirements.

Where can I get an updated copy of the LEED for Retail Rating Systems? It's available for free download by going to the LEED for Retail webpage at www.usgbc.org/leed/retail.

Helpful tips to get started:

1. Review the LEED rating system to assess credit potential
2. Assess what strategies are already in place right now and which strategies you could improve on in order to meet LEED standards.
3. Make a timeline to optimize work and process flow
4. Register the project(when available) to take advantage of USGBC resources

How was LEED for Retail developed?

The LEED for Retail Core Committee, a group of experts representing various facets of the industry, developed a draft of the rating system (LEED for Retail Pilot Program Rating Systems) with input from the LEED Steering Committee. Building science experts that form USGBC's Technical Advisory groups, the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee, and representatives from all major sectors of the building industry also guided the development of LEED for Retail. The rating systems are being piloted in over 95 projects to ensure its practicality as a tool for achieving sustainability. Comments on the pilot rating system received from pilot participants and members of the public guided the development and refinement of LEED for Retail.

What is the process for LEED certification?

LEED Certification steps:

1. Register eligible project via www.gbci.org
2. Identify and implement design and construction improvements necessary to obtain certification
3. Document the design and construction elements necessary for LEED certification
4. Submit certification application to the GBCI via LEED Online for review and provide any supplemental information deemed necessary by the reviewers
5. Receive a final LEED certification review from the GBCI

LEED for Retail and the Portfolio Program

LEED for Retail will also be available for use with the USGBC Portfolio Program. This program enables owners to green their existing building portfolio as well as precertify prototype designs for their future build-outs. This precertification of designs allows for portfolio managers to green their future projects while significantly decreasing the



amount of documentation usually required for LEED certification. Please visit the [Portfolio Program](#) webpage at www.usgbc.org for more information.

Is training available for LEED?

Yes, USGBC provides LEED for Retail training workshops and online webinars. To view the dates and locations of LEED workshops, visit the [Workshop](#) section of the USGBC website. This is a searchable database, enabling you to find the workshop date, location and time that work for you. Retail specific webinars on the LEED for Retail rating systems as well as the Portfolio Program are available at www.usgbc.org/webinars.

Where can I get answers to additional LEED for Retail questions? Send emails to: commercialrealestate@usgbc.org.