



Letter from
SCOT HORST



In May of 2008, I introduced you to LEED v3 through a dialogue about the urgency of mitigating climate change. Here, a year later, that dialogue has shifted to something like this:

Person A: *I keep hearing about green and the next big idea, like somehow there is some big switch out there and if we can find it and flip the switch, global warming and all the things we fear will be gone.*

Person B: *Of course it doesn't work that way.*

Person A: *But it can: Technology created global warming and it can save us from it.*

Person B: *No, it's only by fixing the relationship between ourselves and our shared surroundings that we will fix the problem.*

Person A: *But you don't get it. If we only re-distribute energy, if we only conserve enough water, if we only do a series of things ... wait, let me get the list.*

Person B: *Only when we marry everyone's self interest with our common interests will we succeed. This wedding cannot leave anyone or anything behind.*

Person A: *Sounds fantastic. Do you really believe that is possible? I mean look back at history.*

Person B: *This is what LEED v3 is about. And isn't it strange that the next big idea is really just a series of many small ideas put together by people that care?*

On January 20, I was on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., with thousands of other cold people situated somewhere among the memorials to our past presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and the stage where our new President was speaking.

As he began talking about "a new age of responsibility," I had a sense that the collective past of the people and memorials around me were meeting the future in a powerful moment. In that moment the age of responsibility was given meaning from the past.

So what does an age of responsibility look like? What does it mean? How do we become involved? Will we enter this age as passive or engaged participants?

LEED is a tool that helps you engage as a participant in this new age of responsibility. I think you will enjoy LEED v3. It is the culmination of lessons learned from thoughts and actions of many great people and projects.

I can't wait to see how you use it because you are the place where the past meets the future. You are where responsibility happens. You are collectively the next big idea!

Scot Horst

Senior Vice President, LEED
U.S. Green Building Council



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

60 days after LEED v3's launch, all new projects will be required to register under a LEED 2009 rating system.

LEED's Evolution Continues with Version 3

LEED's strength has always come from its constant, consensus-driven improvement cycle. By design, LEED is meant to grow and evolve along with our understanding of building science, the emergence of new technologies, the needs of the marketplace and the deepening of our environmental priorities. On April 27, the green building community once again drove the next crucial step forward — this time, more holistically than ever before. With all of LEED's commercial and institutional rating systems harmonized and working in concert, and with a new emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and saving energy, LEED v3 will ensure the green building movement continues its forward momentum.

LEED v3 is:



LEED 2009: Technical upgrades to the LEED rating systems, credits and prerequisites.

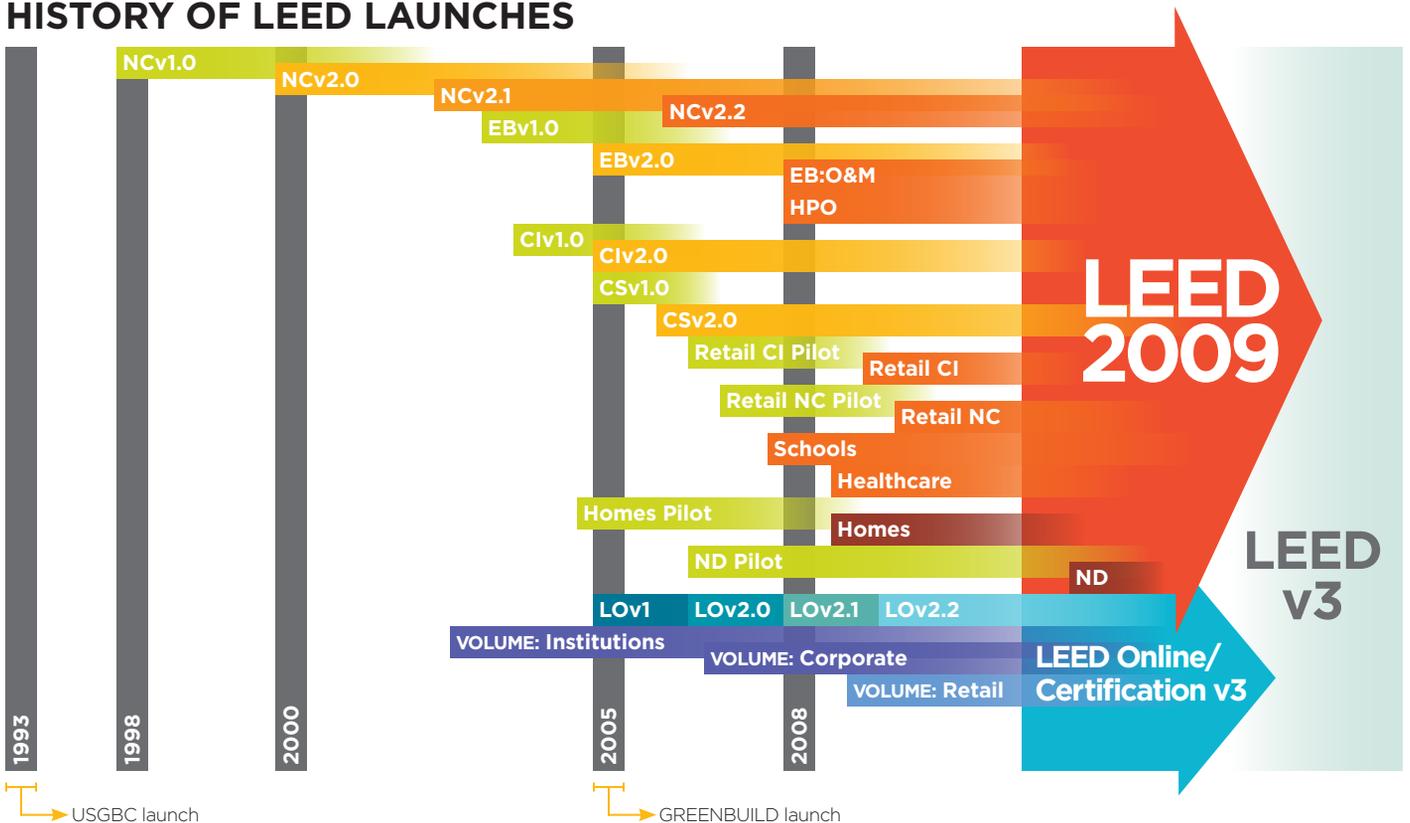


LEED Online: A smarter, faster, more-reliable tool for project teams to make their way through the certification process.



New certification model: Administered by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) and its network of ISO-compliant certifying bodies for quality, speed and capacity.

HISTORY OF LEED LAUNCHES



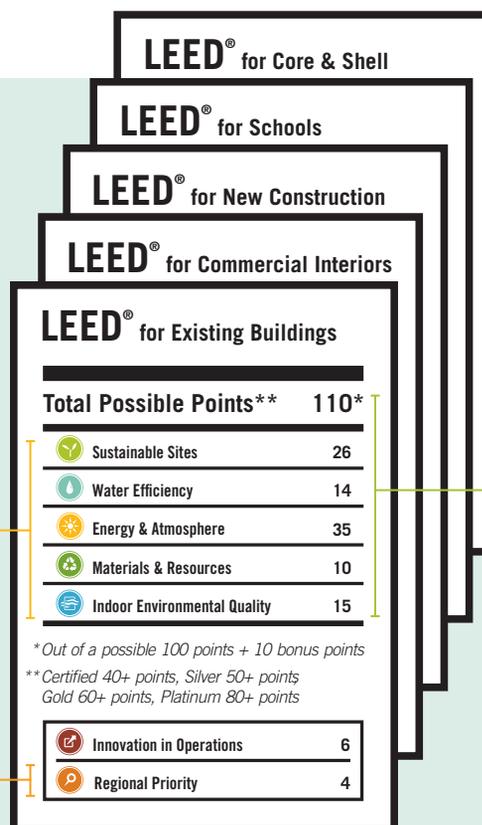
LEED 2009

Harmonization and Alignment

In the past, the rating systems evolved on their own paths, and new versions launched independently. This has caused the credits to diverge a little even as their intents stayed the same. Under LEED 2009, all credits and prerequisites have been harmonized to reflect their most-effective common denominator. Instead of five different credits seeking the same goal across five rating systems, there is now one credit that can be applied to five rating systems.

Regionalization

Priority credits encourage project teams to focus on strategies that are of most importance locally. These credits were selected by USGBC's regional councils, chapters and affiliates from among all LEED's credit categories and will give projects that meet them "extra credit" toward certification.



Credit Weightings

The urgency of climate change mitigation and reducing our built environment's crippling energy addiction is reflected in LEED 2009 more than in any previous version of LEED. Credit weightings allow LEED technical development to reward credits proportionately based on how well they respond to priority.

LEED Online

LEED Online is the tool LEED project teams use to manage the LEED registration and certification processes. The new version of LEED Online is faster, smarter, and more robust. It is engineered to better facilitate communication between project teams and certifying bodies, and includes upgrades that respond to the changes in the LEED 2009 rating system.

Projects registered under version 2 rating systems will continue to use LEED Online version 2. Only projects registered under LEED 2009 will use the new version of LEED Online.

Who does what

Under LEED v3, the distinct roles that USGBC and GBCI play improve the speed and capacity of the certification process without diminishing the quality. USGBC continues to manage the development of LEED and provide tools, resources and education. GBCI, through its network of internationally recognized, ISO-compliant certifying bodies, administers the review and certification of projects.

Support

LEED Reference Guides: The five commercial and institutional rating systems have been consolidated into three guides that address building type and phase. The new guides are available in hard copy or downloadable e-book at www.usgbc.org/store.

Educational offerings: Learn how to apply LEED to your building projects or prepare for one of GBCI's LEED professional credentials. Choose your learning path at www.usgbc.org/education.

USGBC Web site: Download the LEED 2009 rating system documents and view archived webcasts about LEED v3 at www.usgbc.org/leedv3.