## Pilot Credit Library Summary

## Purpose

*The LEED Pilot Credit Library is a rating system development tool designed to encourage testing of new and revised LEED credit language, alternative compliance paths, and new or innovative green building technologies and concepts, through the collaboration and increased engagement of USGBC stakeholders and LEED users.*

The Pilot Credit Library (PCL) is a feedback loop for both testing and comments. It allows project teams to test proposed rating system changes, establishes a forum for non-project teams to see and comment on potential requirement/credit changes and enables a substantially more dynamic LEED evolution and innovation process. USGBC will collect, organize and integrate project team feedback to evolve and refine Pilot Credits during their testing period with a goal of adding successful credits to the USGBC member balloted LEED Rating System.

## Structure

The LEED Steering Committee has established the Pilot Credit Library Working Group to administer the Pilot Credit Library. The working group is supported by USGBC staff with the assistance of GBCI staff, as necessary. The individuals appointed to the Pilot Credit Library working group are technical and subject matter experts who manage the evolution of pilot credit language based on feedback from project teams and other stakeholders.

Formal pilot credit language changes can be made and published on the 1$^{st}$ and 15$^{th}$ of each month, as needed. The interactive nature of the pilot credit testing and feedback process provides a dynamic and rapid exchange of ideas between project teams and stakeholders actively involved in the pilot testing process. Changes are tracked at the bottom of each pilot credit document and in the Ongoing List of Additions, Modifications and Closures. Projects registered prior to a change have the option of adopting the new language or continuing with the old pilot credit language.

Once sufficient pilot test data has been gathered, the working group provides a written recommendation detailing their findings on individual pilot credits to the LEED Steering Committee.  USGBC's LEED Technical Advisory Groups deliberate on "final" credit language per USGBC's established LEED development process and LSC approves or rejects this credit language for inclusion into future rating system public comment and ballot processes. During this time, project teams registered may still participate in the pilot; once finalized, USGBC will set a submission deadline for use of the credit.

## Pilot Credit Types
The pilot library consists of the following credit types:

- Alternative Compliance Paths (ACPs) to Existing LEED Credits and Prerequisites
  ***This path is not currently active.***
  - To earn credit, project teams must successfully complete the requirements of pilot testing *and* comply with the technical requirements of a pilot ACP. In the case of a prerequisite, the rating system prerequisite is satisfied through the successful completion of the ACP. For credits, points are earned in lieu of the existing credit's available points.

- New Credit Ideas
  - Project teams that successfully complete the requirements of pilot credit testing are eligible for award of Innovation points.

- Newly Proposed Prerequisites
  - Project teams that successfully complete the requirements of pilot credit testing are eligible for award of Innovation points.

The PCL will accommodate up to 50 pilot credits at a time. The library current includes credits from all LEED Rating System type.  In addition new credit ideas will be added that explore areas USGBC feels LEED credits can accelerate market transformation.  The order in which pilot credits are added to the PCL will be established by the Pilot Credit Working Group in consultation with the Technical Advisory Groups, LEED Steering Committe and USGBC staff.

Member generated ideas for pilot credits can be submitted by any USGBC member through www.usgbc.org/submitapilot. These proposals will be reviewed quarterly under the same review process as committee developed credits. Proposals are not guaranteed to be included in the pilot credit library, they may also be modified by the reviewing committees prior to approval/posting.

## Pilot Credit Participation
Project teams that are interested in participating in the pilot test of a credit are required to complete the following:

1. Register for Pilot Credit(s) here.
2. Register a username at LEEDuser.com, and participate in online forum
3. Submit feedback survey; supply confirmation of completion email with credit documentation

4. Submit credit specific documentation as outlined in the "submittals" section of each pilot credit.

Anyone interested in LEED can participate in the feedback forum at LEEDuser at no cost.

## Pilot Credit Evaluation

The Pilot Credit Library allows USGBC to pose a question to the green building industry about the development direction and technical content of the LEED Rating System. The PCL seeks answers from project teams and stakeholders to the questions posed by pilot credits. While most pilot credits require the development of specific metrics to assess their performance all pilot credits seek answers to basic questions as outlined in the general language the LEED Steering Committee has approved to assess pilot credits. This evaluation criterion includes:

1. Are LEED project teams able to achieve and document compliance with the requirements of the Pilot Credit?
2. Does compliance with the Pilot Credit requirements yield outcomes that support its intent?
3. Does compliance with the requirements yield decisions that produce same/better/worse outcomes (environmental, social, economic) than would have otherwise been achieved? What evaluation criteria have been used to prove these outcomes?
4. Does compliance with the requirements spur market innovation or transformation? If so how?
5. Does compliance with the requirements have unintended or previously unforeseen negative consequences?
6. Does this pilot credit align with the overall direction and advancement of LEED?

Additional detail on these general evaluation criteria, as well as credit specific evaluation criteria, is available [here](#).

## Timeline

The Pilot Credit Library was launched on July 15, 2010. Pilot credits may be added, removed or modified on the 1st or 15th of the month. These changes will be tracked here: [Ongoing List of Additions, Modifications and Closures](#) and under the changes section of each pilot credit.

Credits may developed by USGBC committees and added to the PCL by the LEED Steering Committee. Credits may be removed when the credit has received sufficient market feedback, is in need of major revision, has been unused for a significant period of time or has been deemed ineffective based on market feedback.

## Pilot Credit Project Report Outline

The following is proposed as minimum content for pilot reports developed by the working group to be included at the conclusion of the pilot:

1. Description of Participants
   - Number
   - Description
   - Size
   - Location
   - Other relevant information
2. Summary of credit achievement
   - Number and percent achieving each credit
   - Number and percent attempting and failing, for each credit
   - Number and percent not attempting, for each credit
   - Other?
3. Analysis of credits
   - For each credit with more than 80% or less than 20% achievement, describe reasons and any revisions made in response
   - For credits with more than 40% attempts and failures, describe reasons and any revisions made in response
   - Feedback on any "unique" credits or approaches
4. Feedback from participants and stakeholders
   - Provide narrative with participants' thoughts on proposed system
   - General impressions on market acceptance

# Guidelines for LEED Pilot Credit Evaluation

*These guidelines for LEED pilot credit evaluation are subject to revision by the LEED Steering Committee.*

Pilot credits and prerequisites are established to create a mechanism for project level testing of new or significantly modified LEED credit or prerequisite ideas.  This process allows USGBC to test and refine credits through LEED project evaluations before they are sent through the balloting process for introduction into LEED.  The fundamental questions that projects will be asked during the pilot credit evaluation process to determine the success or failure of a pilot credit are as follows:

1. Are LEED project teams able to achieve and document compliance with the requirements of the Pilot Credit?
   o Are credit requirements and submittals clear and unambiguous?
   o Is the cost/time/effort required to achieve and document credit compliance reasonable for a project team relative to other LEED credits?
   o Are the established performance thresholds correct?
     • What percentage of projects was able to achieve the credit?
     • If the pilot credit is a prerequisite, were there projects that would have been unable to achieve the prerequisite appropriate?
   o Can requirements be improved?
   o Are there more appropriate reference standards or benchmarks?
2. Does compliance with the Pilot Credit requirements yield outcomes that support its intent?
   a. If yes, what data is available to support this conclusion?
   b. If no, what data is available to support this conclusion?
3. Does compliance with the requirements yield decisions that produce same/better/worse outcomes (environmental, social, economic) than would have otherwise been achieved? What evaluation criteria have been used to prove these outcomes?
4. Does compliance with the requirements spur market innovation or transformation?  If so how?
5. Does compliance with the requirements have unintended or previously unforeseen negative consequences?
6. Does this pilot credit align with the overall direction and advancement of LEED?

## Process for Project Feedback on Pilot Credits

Project teams accepted to participate in piloting a credit to agree to take part in a feedback process designed to assess performance of pilot credits. At any time during the pilot, questions and feedback may be requested to properly assess the performance of individual pilot credits. Project feedback will be obtained through group conference calls, individual project interviews, online surveys, LEEDuser and other methods. Participating project teams are expected to respond in a timely manner. Additional project-specific information may also be requested by USGBC from the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) to help inform pilot credit discussions. Input from non-project team stakeholders will also be solicited, ensuring that all interests have an opportunity to provide feedback during the pilot process.

As part of the pilot credit submission process, project teams are required to provide feedback on key performance characteristics and demonstrate that conformance to the requirements achieve desirable outcomes for the project. However, the award of a credit is not limited to successful achievement of the pilot credit. If a project team is able to demonstrate that conformance produces undesirable outcomes for the project, credit can be awarded.

USGBC staff tracks participation of a project team in the development of a pilot credit, completion of required feedback forms and project team LEEDuser activity. Project teams who satisfactorily complete the credit requirements, participation documentation and feedback requirements will be awarded a pilot under the innovation category.

For LEED BD+C, ID+C, EB: O&M and Neighborhood Development projects, this documentation should be submitted under IDc1/IOc1 in LEED Online.

For LEED for Homes and LEED for Homes Mid-Rise projects, this documentation should be emailed to pilot@usgbc.org. The submitter will receive an award confirmation email that should be submitted with final certification documents.

## The LEED Pilot Credit Library on LEEDuser

The LEED Pilot Credit Library is a testing ground for credits and an opportunity for project teams and stakeholders to collaborate.  To facilitate the exchange of experience and credit development ideas, USGBC has established a LEED Pilot Credit section on the LEEDuser website.  LEEDuser will provide guidance for teams working on LEED Pilot Credits. Project teams and interested stakeholders are able to access the credit language and an online discussion forum to share strategies and collaborate on ideas for evolving the credit to be more effective at accomplishing its intent and easier for project teams to implement. Participation in this forum is required for project teams pursuing a pilot credit.  The LEEDuser page for many Pilot Credits will be moderated by technical experts appointed by USGBC to facilitate dialogue and provide a feedback loop to the Pilot Credit Working Group and USGBC staff.  These technical experts are also available to provide interpretations and guidance on credit achievement.

USGBC and LEEDuser have partnered to evolve the pilot credits to LEEDuser as a free service of the website.  The Pilot Credit section of LEEDuser is intended to enhance and broaden participation in the LEED Pilot Credit Library. The LEED Pilot Credit language, expert advice, and a community of other LEED Pilot Credit users is available at LEEDuser.