

PILOT CREDITS - FAQs

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General

1. What is the Pilot Credit Library and its purpose?
 - a. The LEED Pilot Credit Library is intended to facilitate the introduction of new prerequisites and credits to LEED through stakeholder engagement and collaboration on the testing and analysis of proposed requirements. This process allows USGBC to refine credits through LEED project evaluations before they complete the balloting process for introduction into LEED.

The LEED Pilot Credit Library is an established component of USGBC's existing process of ongoing credit research and evaluation. LEED pilot credits are, first and foremost, learning opportunities. USGBC prides itself on the ability to leverage community expertise to directly inform the technical development of LEED. Pilot credits provide focused, real-time project team feedback that is invaluable to LEED rating system development. This real-world project testing creates vital professional and experiential feedback loops for the volunteers who serve as LEED credit authors to learn from. Pilot testing also allows for informed decisions to be made about the technical merit and feasibility of potential LEED ideas and aids LEED credit authors in the development of smarter, more-effective LEED strategies.

As a result of pilot testing, it may be determined that a proposed credit or prerequisite does not accomplish its stated intent. This information is crucial in recognizing whether ideas are appropriate to be integrated into LEED in the future and is integral in the development of a robust rating system. If at the conclusion of pilot credit evaluation, a credit's requirements are deemed ineffective, the credit may be substantially modified or removed altogether.

2. Where can I find information about the pilot credits and their requirements?
 - a. Pilot credits and their requirements can be found at www.usgbc.org/pilotcreditlibrary, as well as at www.LEEDuser.com/pilot.
3. Which rating systems are applicable for the pilot credits?
 - a. Currently, all registered projects may apply for a pilot credit. Please review the individual credit documents to determine if a particular credit is available to your project type.
4. What are the credits currently in the Pilot Credit Library?
 - a. A complete list of available pilot credits can be found [here](#).

Pilot credits that are no longer available can be found [here](#).

Process

5. How do I register for a pilot credit? Can I register for more than one credit?
 - a. Project teams may register for multiple pilot credits, and can register at www.usgbc.org/leed/pilot/PilotLibraryProjectReg.aspx. To complete registration, be sure to have your project ID, project name, rating system, project type, and project administrator's information.

Pilot credits are used in the Innovation and Design/Innovation and Operations category of the rating system, and will use the ID/IO credit template when applying for the credit in LEED-Online. The template and submittal documentation must be uploaded to LEED-Online for review, as well as submitted to Pilot Credit Working Group.

6. If a credit changes, how will project teams be notified? And will they be held to new requirements?
 - a. Credit changes can occur on the 1st and 15th of the month.. Note that some months, no changes will be made. Only project teams registering on or after the release date will be held to the new requirements, though projects registered prior are highly encouraged to use the updated version.
 - b. If a project is registered under an older version of a pilot credit (registered prior to the release of the new version), they may continue to use the older version of the credit, even if the credit closes altogether. The credit can be reviewed in by USGBC or GBCI at any point after registration, regardless of the status of the pilot credit at the time of review.
 - c. Note that once a pilot credit closes, it may not be applied for as a separate Innovation strategy. Closed pilot credits have been closed because their testing period is over; only projects that registered for the credit prior to its closure may continue on to attempt the credit.
7. How will a Pilot Credit move out of the Pilot Credit Library and into the LEED Rating System?
 - a. Per [Foundations of LEED](#), all requirements in LEED must go through member ballot process. Some Pilot Credits may go through this process concurrent with piloting, while other credits may need substantial feedback and revision in the Pilot Credit Library before being approved for the ballot process. All language sent through the ballot process must be approved by the LEED Steering Committee and US Green Building Council's Board of Directors.
8. Do pilot credits expire?
 - a. While pilot credits will not expire, they may transition into the main rating systems. At that time, USGBC will determine a close date for using the credit language under the pilot system, after which teams will need to use the credit in its applicable rating system and credit category. Projects registered under the old credit prior to its closing may continue to use the older version until that project has completed the certification process.

9. How are credits selected for the Pilot Credit Library?
 - a. Pilot credits are added to the Pilot Credit Library by the Pilot Credit Library Working Group in consultation with the Technical Advisory Groups, LEED Steering Committee and USGBC staff.
10. Can I propose a new credit? How? When?
 - a. USGBC accepts pilot credit proposals from USGBC members. For more information, or to complete the application, go to www.usgbc.org/submitapilot. Your proposal must include credit language, background information, applicable rating systems, submittal requirements, and a guest expert point of contact. For more information, review the [Member-Generated Pilot Credit Overview document](#).

Certification/Review

11. How many points are pilot credits worth?
 - a. Pilot credits in the Innovation section are generally each worth one point, under the ID/IO section of the rating systems. Project teams may earn up to the maximum number of points available in the Innovation in Design credit. For example, in LEED for New Construction 2009, up to 5 pilot credits may be earned, and, in turn, 5 points. For LEED for Schools, and LEED for Existing Buildings 2009 and LEED for Homes 2008, 4 points may be earned, as there are 4 points available in ID/IOc1. If a project's ID points are already in use for exemplary performance or other innovation strategies, then only the remaining ID credits would be available for Pilot Credit use.
 - b. Alternative Compliance Paths (ACPs) to existing credits are listed in a separate section on the pilot credit library page. Information about which rating system credit they can replace or supplement is available within the pilot credit document.
12. Who reviews my pilot credit submission?
 - a. The evaluation forms and additional documentation from projects participating in a given pilot will be reviewed by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) as part of the LEED project review. The information and feedback gathered will help inform improvements to the content of the credit or prerequisite and help determine which pilot credits proceed through the member ballot process. All credits and prerequisites that are part of the Pilot Credit Library must be approved to continue through the ballot process before they may become part of a LEED rating system.
13. How are points awarded?
 - a. Criteria for awarding points are based on the attempt and documentation of results of the pilot credit. Credit can be earned in one of two ways:
 - i. Completing the requirements and submitting the appropriate documentation. This is the process used by the vast majority of project teams and is similar to the standard LEED review process.
 - ii. Documenting that a pilot credit is in need of major revision and in unachievable in its current form. If pursuing this path, the project team must provide clear

evidence of the issue and should inform the reviewer that they are attempting to show that the credit is in need of major revision.

- iii. For more information on this process, see [who reviews my pilot credit submission](#), below.

14. Beyond points, what kind of recognition will be given to my project?

- a. A variety of incentives may be available to LEED projects that participate in the piloting of a credit or prerequisite and provide adequate feedback to USGBC. These incentives will be established on a specific credit-by-credit basis.

15. How do I include my documentation in LEED Online?

- a. Providing documentation in LEED Online will be the same process as any other credit and should be uploaded under IDc1/IOc1 or the appropriate credit in the case of pilot alternative compliance paths. Along with proof of registration and survey completion, project teams will need to upload specific submittals for each pilot credit. These submittals can be found within the pilot credit documents at www.usgbc.org/pilotcreditlibrary and www.LEEDuser.com/Pilot.

Pilot Credit Working Group

16. What is the Pilot Credit Working Group? Who are they and what do they do?

- a. The Pilot Credit Working Group has been established by the LEED Steering Committee. It is a group of professionals among a variety of member categories, specializing in LEED, sustainability, and innovative design/building/operating strategies. With their diverse backgrounds, they will review pilot credit submittals, assess outcome data, and make recommendations to USGBC staff and the LEED Steering Committee as to the validity of all pilot credits and their inclusion in main rating systems.

17. Can I join the Working Group?

- a. Membership to the working group is presently closed. We will be accepting applications for Subject Matter Experts in the near future. Updates on this will be posted on our main pilot page, www.usgbc.org/pilotcreditlibrary or through the [committee volunteer opportunities section](#) of the website.

LEEDuser

18. What is LEEDuser?

- a. LEEDuser is an independently operated website that provides credit-by-credit guidance for teams working on LEED certification in the major commercial and institutional rating systems. Included are clear descriptions of credit requirements, tips to streamline LEED submissions, templates and calculators, and online user forums moderated by credit experts.

USGBC and LEEDuser have partnered to bring the pilot credits to LEEDuser as a free portion of the website with the goal of encouraging use of the LEED Pilot Credit Library. Access the LEED Pilot Credit language, expert advice, and a community of other LEED Pilot Credit users at www.LEEDuser.com/Pilot. Project teams can access the credit language, and an online discussion forum between teams, general LEED users, and

interested parties. Participation in this forum is required for project teams pursuing a pilot credit.

19. What if I don't have a registered project, or am not pursuing a pilot credit? Can I still participate in the online forum and give feedback on credits?
 - a. Yes. The USGBC encourages all interested parties to participate in our feedback process, whether participating in a pilot credit or not. Credits and the feedback forum can be found at [LEEDuser](#). Access to the pilot credits and forum at LEEDuser is free of cost.