

GREEN BUILDING, USGBC AND LEED July 2009



The U.S. Green Building Council is the nation's foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. Green buildings increase productivity, improve health, conserve the Earth's resources, and cost less to operate and maintain. They are becoming highly-prized assets for companies, communities and people across the country.

USGBC is the acknowledged leader in green building and development. USGBC's LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ has provided the reliable building design and performance measurement systems that building owners and operators need. Founded in 1993, USGBC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The organization is governed by a 26-member Board of Directors representing the Member and Chapter communities. USGBC is a dues-based membership organization representing more than 19,500 organizations from 12 membership categories.

A staff of more than 200 professionals administers an extensive program of education, information and advocacy that is anchored by the LEED Green Building Rating System. LEED is a voluntary standards and certification program that defines high-performance green buildings and encompasses all building types including New Construction, Existing Buildings, Commercial Interiors, Core & Shell, Homes, Neighborhoods and Healthcare. USGBC's education workshops, chapter programs in more than 75 communities, and the annual Greenbuild conference provide a strong foundation for green building education.

LEED provides a complete framework for meeting sustainability goals and assessing building performance in six categories: Sustainable Sites; Water Efficiency; Energy and Atmosphere; Materials and Resources; Indoor Environmental Quality; Innovation and Design process. Four progressive levels of LEED certification – Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum – can be achieved based on the number of points awarded to a building project. Certain prerequisites must be achieved in order to qualify for certification.

With more than 3,000 certified projects and over 24,500 registered projects, USGBC has extensive experience in assessing, documenting and administering what has become the leading green building rating system in the United States. Consensus-based and scientifically driven, LEED provides well-defined processes for incorporating constantly evolving practices and technologies.

A current example of LEED's constant evolution is the April 2009 launch of LEED v3, which includes the enhanced green building rating system, "LEED 2009," the improved and streamlined online registration platform and the large-scale expansion of our certification model through third-party ISO accredited certification review bodies. This new rating system includes new technology and addresses urgent priorities like energy use and CO₂ emission.

As a third-party certification system, LEED validates achievement and establishes leadership in the green building sector. LEED provides a clear roadmap for sustainable design and then ensures its performance by documenting that the building is constructed as designed.

As the following statistics make abundantly clear, LEED stands alone as the pre-eminent green building rating system in the United States:

\$36-49 billion: The annual market for green building in products and services

Almost 6 billion: Square feet of commercial building space registered or certified under the LEED® Green Building Rating System™

102,000+: Professionals trained through LEED Education

100,000+: LEED Accredited Professionals

19,588: USGBC member organizations, including corporations, governmental agencies, and nonprofits

3,017: Total commercial LEED-certified projects

26,731: Total commercial LEED-registered projects

16,714: Building projects are LEED for New Construction registered and an additional 1,835 building projects have completed LEED-NC certification

3,217: Building projects have registered with LEED for Commercial Interiors and an additional 712 have completed certification

3,752: Building projects have registered with LEED for Existing Buildings and an additional 263 have completed certification

3,048: Building projects have registered with LEED for Core and Shell and an additional 207 have completed certification

17,375: Residential units have registered with LEED for Homes and an additional 2,579 have completed certification

31%: of LEED certified projects owned by federal, state, and local governments

International:

100+: Countries with LEED projects

States:

50: States with LEED projects

36: States have adopted LEED

Local:

190: Local Governments have adopted LEED

90: Percent reduction in employee relocation costs in buildings with flexible design features

40: Percent increase in sales in stores with skylights

(from a study for the California Board for Energy Efficiency Third Party Program)

30: Percent cut in energy use can save tenants 50 cents per square foot per year *(according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency research)*

20: Percent savings in O&M costs for LEED buildings over their life

(from The Costs and Financial Benefits of Green Buildings: A Report to California's Sustainable Building Task Force)