# New and Updated Credits Introduced into LEED Pilot Credit Library

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*Library provides a proving ground for LEED users to guide the improvement of LEED rating system*

Washington, DC – (Mar. 2, 2012) – The U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) next update to the LEED green building program, LEED 2012, will include various updates to credits within the LEED Pilot Credit Library. As a flexible, interactive mechanism for testing proposed credits in the marketplace, the Pilot Credit Library gathers real-time feedback on credit usability and ability to meet a credit's intent.

The Pilot Credit Library was established 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 being introduced into LEED.

"The LEED Pilot Credit Library has been widely embraced by LEED users and has successfully created a forum for discussing the strengths and weaknesses of new and innovative credits," said Brendan Owens, Vice President, LEED Technical Development. "The LEED user community has actively engaged in pilot testing the existing credits and these new and updated credits incorporate their valuable feedback and help make LEED more dynamic and effective."

LEED 2012, which opened yesterday for third public comment, is the next step towards a global, performance-based application. The current LEED 2012 draft focuses on increasing the technical rigor of the rating system, improving the user experience and providing measurement and performance tools. Along with the opening of the public comment period, several key changes within the Pilot Credit Library will be presented.

"As part of the larger evolution of the Materials & Resources credit category, the new pilot credits shift focus towards a more integrated decision making framework based on life cycle assessment," continued Owens. "When considered as an integrated system, the credits encourage actions that move us towards a products universe focused on transparency and multi-attribute life cycle optimization."

Under the heading of Materials & Resources (MR), Pilot Credits 2 and 11, will combine to form a more encompassing chemical avoidance credit. Pilot Credit 54: Avoidance of Chemicals of Concern in Building Materials, encourages LEED project teams to avoid building materials that contain chemicals that are known to negatively impact human health, specifically in regards to cancer and reproductive toxicity.

In addition to these two credits becoming one, an additional credit will be added, Disclosure of Chemicals of Concern (Pilot Credit 62) and it addresses product transparency. Both newly added pilot credits, 54 and 62, will progress to LEED 2012. A pilot credit that addresses alternatives assessments is under development.

Another notable change within MR is a pilot credit split to more directly address product transparency and performance. Pilot Credit 43 is now divided into two credits - Pilot Credit 61: Material Disclosure and Assessment and Pilot Credit 52: Material Multi-Attribute Assessment.

A new Energy Jumpstart concept under the Energy & Atmosphere heading addresses the huge opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and building operational expenses by reaching the 75 percent of the market that the existing buildings energy performance prerequisite excludes.

"The pilot credit creates an on-ramp for these buildings and we hope to use it to engage project teams and building owners who demonstrate leadership by drastically improving the energy performance of their buildings," continued Owens.

Pilot Credit 67: Energy & Atmosphere Prerequisite 2 Alternative Compliance Path, or Energy Jumpstart, rewards significant improvement in building energy performance. It enables projects that have documented substantial energy performance improvement to satisfy the requirements of the Energy & Atmosphere Prerequisite 2: Minimum Energy Efficiency Performance and pursue LEED at the Certified
level.

Ten additional pilot credits have been introduced into the library, and can be viewed online via usgbc.org/pilotcreditlibrary. The library currently contains 36

credits exploring everything from LCA of building assemblies to bird collision deterrence.

The third public comment documents for LEED 2012 include technical refinements, scorecards and responses to comments from the previous public comment period and are currently available. Members of the public can comment on any substantive changes made since the second public comment period until public comment closes on Mar. 20. To learn more about LEED 2012, visit usgbc.org/LEED2012.

**About U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)**
The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building certification program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org and connect on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

**LEED**
The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of green buildings. Nearly 45,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising 8.3 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 120 countries. In addition, nearly 19,000 residential units have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system, with over 75,000 more homes registered.

By using less energy, LEED-certified spaces save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce carbon emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. Learn more at usgbc.org.

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