New Alternative Compliance Paths Now Available for International LEED Projects

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Suzlon One Earth, a LEED Platinum project in India.

Refined and expanded paths provide added flexibility, options for international projects pursuing LEED green building certification

Washington, DC – (Oct. 23, 2012) – A new set of Global Alternative Compliance Paths, or Global ACPs, are now available for all commercial projects pursuing LEED green building certification using the 2009 versions of the rating systems. Global ACPs offer a flexible method for projects around the world to demonstrate compliance with the LEED credits that are traditionally more challenging for projects outside of the U.S.

"Global consistency and a regional approach mean providing flexibility in referenced standards while ensuring that LEED certification signifies the same level of excellence worldwide," said Scot Horst, Senior Vice President, LEED, USGBC. "By focusing on global standards and solutions, these Alternative Compliance Paths make LEED increasingly flexible and ensure a common language for all green buildings."

The use of LEED outside the U.S. continues to grow rapidly. In 2012, projects outside the U.S. pursuing LEED certification make up over 50 percent of all floor area of all registrations. As the most widely recognized and used green building program, LEED is certifying 186,000 square meters of commercial building space each day, comprising more than 49,100 LEED-certified and registered projects in 135 countries.

With a growing stock of existing buildings throughout Europe, members of the LEED International Roundtable including Finland, France, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, led by Green Building Council Italia, are working to address the growing needs of this sector in their area by developing LEED credit options that address geographic and regional issues. These specific Regional Alternative Compliance Paths are being developed for projects in Europe pursuing the 2009 version of LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance. This global approach to technical development of the rating system is just a beginning.

Additionally, new Regional Priority Credits have been released for projects using the 2009 versions of LEED for New Construction and are for use in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Turkey. Regional Priority Credits are not new LEED credits, but instead are existing credits that are designated as being particularly important for various regional issues. If project teams achieve a Regional Priority Credit, they receive a bonus point in addition to their project's total points. The additional LEED points available encourage projects to pursue credits that address unique regional environmental priorities. Regional Priority Credits will be expanded to additional countries and rating systems in the future.

The LEED International Roundtable is an advisory group of green building councils and non-profits representing 21 countries (soon to be 28 countries) working to strengthen LEED's international focus to make the rating system more effective globally.

To learn more about the Global and Regional ACPs, visit www.usgbc.org/leed or email international@usgbc.org.

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 follow us on Twitter @USGBC, Facebook at facebook.com/USGBC and LinkedIn.

LEED Green Building Program
LEED is the foremost program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of green buildings. More than 49,100 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising 9.2 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 135 countries. In addition, more than 24,000 residential units have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system, with more than 89,000 more residential units 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/LEED.

Ashley Katz
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Member employees, USGBC staff

3 comments

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Mehmet Cetik — 3 days 22 hours ago

The relevant link for The LEED International Roundtable (http://www.usgbc.org/about/committees/international) does not seem to work at the moment. Can I get some current information on the structure of The LEED International Roundtable please? Thanks in advance!

Roland Le Roux — 1 year 19 weeks ago
Green Building Consultant - LEED AP O+M, Elan

Ashley, this sounds like great news for many international projects. It does not look like the new ACPs can be downloaded yet (I just looked in the resources section and the October 4th revisions are still up). Can you post a link to the new ACPs if you have it?
Thanks

Batya Metalitz — 1 year 19 weeks ago
Manager, LEED, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Roland - The ACPs can be downloaded in the resources section and include both the July 6th releases and the new releases (Healthcare, Commercials Interiors, Retail - CI and Retail - NC), dated October 1. The language has also been incorporated into the credit library.

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