USGBC to Offer Free Certification for First Platinum Projects to Use Next Generation of LEED

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Washington, D.C. — (June 28, 2013) — In an effort to accelerate sustainable development around the world, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), creators of the LEED® green building rating system, is adding a new layer to its LEED Earth campaign to offer free LEED certification to the first Platinum projects that certify using the new version of LEED. This new component will encourage and reward optimum, cutting-edge green building practices globally.

LEED Earth was announced earlier this month to further encourage sustainable development and green building practices around the world by offering free certification to the first projects to certify in more than 100 countries where LEED has yet to take root. The campaign is highlighting the benefits of these better-performing buildings to drive market uptake in these new markets. To date, nine countries are participating in LEED Earth.

“From new to existing building markets, LEED is in use around the world,” said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair, USGBC. “The many strengths of LEED are its global relevance, its rigor and its flexibility. We are committed to meeting market demand for LEED and the upcoming version will continue to raise the industry bar.”

USGBC Chief Operating Officer Mahesh Ramanujam made the announcement on June 27 at the USGBC Asia Pacific Members’ Meeting in Shanghai sponsored by Carrier, EMSI, Haworth and CBRE. China is the world’s third largest market for LEED and is home to more than 1,500 registered and certified LEED projects with six projects already applying LEED v4 as part of its beta launch.

LEED v4, the next version of LEED, is slated to launch in fall of 2013 and builds on the core fundamentals of the current version of LEED while streamlining the certification process and placing a significant emphasis on building performance. Currently, there are more than 100 building projects in 11 countries already using the beta version of LEED v4.

USGBC is working to ensure the flexibility of the LEED rating system for all markets and climates through the development of alternative compliance paths and regional priority credits. Currently there are LEED-registered and certified projects in more than 140 countries and territories. Daily, 1.5 million square feet of construction space earn LEED certification.

To participate in the program and register a project email LEEDEarth@usgbc.org. Share your involvement in the campaign or follow updates on Twitter with hashtag #LEEDEarth.

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is an organization representing over 13,000 members from the built environment. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building 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.

Joseph Crea
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2 comments

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Nadav Malin 1 year 38 weeks ago

President, BuildingGreen, Inc.

How many projects will be able to take advantage of this incentive?

Got my answer--it's the first one in each country. Ok, the race is on!

Stacey Olson 1 year 42 weeks ago

Associate, CID, LEED AP+ID&C, LEED BD+C, Gensler

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