

New and Improved Way to Certify Multiple Buildings

Published on **16 Apr 2013** Written by [Melissa Gallagher-Rogers](#) Posted in [LEED](#)



In 2005, USGBC developed the application guidance for [multiple buildings and buildings on a campus](#). Since then, we've continued to refine and expand both the document and the supporting tools.

The newest update includes two key features.

The first is **Group Certification**, which allows project teams with separate buildings that are substantially similar to certify as one project that shares a single certification. This is now available in addition to the existing **Campus** approach, which allows buildings to take credit for shared attributes on a site and achieve separate LEED certification for each project, building space or group.

The second feature comes in the form of [LEED Online for Campus](#). Project teams using LEED 2009 for Campus Program projects have the added support of an interface that will:

- Support a faster workflow
- Streamline processes and approval across several projects
- Provide a more flexible structure that facilitates collaboration across multiple project team members
- Feature forms designed specifically for Campus projects based on the guidance provided in the Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects

Together, these new features add more flexibility and save project teams time as they certify multiple buildings.

Getting started (projects using LEED 2009)

- Step 1: Review the [Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects](#) to learn about requirements for certification
- Step 2: [Take a tour of LEED Online for Campus](#)
- Step 3: [Register your project](#)

Questions?

- [Learn more about what defines a "campus"](#), including requirements and if this program is a good fit for your project
- [See answers to common questions](#) about LEED Online for Campus Program projects

- 10
Melissa Gallagher-Rogers made 10 contributions in the last 6 months



[Melissa Gallagher-Rogers](#)

Vice President, Technical Solutions U.S. Green Building Council
Member employees, USGBC staff

20 comments [Leave a comment](#)



4 weeks 1 day ago

[Nandana Dilip Kumar](#)

Senior Manager, LEAD Consultancy & Engg Services Ltd

Can we apply group certification for multiple CI projects under a single owner on the same campus?



12 weeks 2 days ago

[Courtney Royal](#)

Energy Analyst, Taitem Engineering, PC

Our firm has been asked to assume the LEED consultant role on a very large development in Istanbul, Turkey. The previous architect is not longer with the firm and the new architect reached out to us, so we are coming a little late and I wanted to confirm a few things. The development has 5 multifamily buildings within the same development, but only registered under 1 LEED-NCv2.2 project. Previous architect set it up that all 5 buildings documentation, etc. can be included into one certification. Is this acceptable? Was there a previous "campus block" approach before 2009? Thanks!



30 weeks 2 days ago

[Melissa Gallagher-Rogers](#)

Vice President, Technical Solutions, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Neshat, Yes, the April 2014 version of the guidance is applicable to all projects for both LEED v2009 and LEED v4. You can use that version of the guidance for your project. Please let us know if you have other questions. Thanks!



33 weeks 3 days ago

[Neshat Sakeena](#)

Sustainability Consultant, Ramboll Group

Hello, I am currently working on a LEED NC - v2009 Multiple buildings project that was registered in Sept 2013. What document should i refer to as campus guidance. This page leads to a link with the campus guidance effective from April 2014. Can i use this for reference? Thanks



1 week 2 days ago

[Megan Ritchie Saffitz](#)

Director of LEED Support, Green Building Certification Institute

Hi Neshat - It looks like Melissa's response didn't properly sync with your question, so I wasn't sure if you were notified that she responded: "Hi Neshat, Yes, the April 2014 version of the guidance is applicable to all projects for both LEED v2009 and LEED v4. You can use that version of the guidance for your project. Please let us know if you have other questions. Thanks!"



1 week 1 day ago

[Neshat Sakeena](#)

Sustainability Consultant, Ramboll Group

Thank you Megan I was not, Thanks for your response Melissa



36 weeks 2 days ago

[GLENN BELLAMY](#)

Heery International, Inc.

Your new website is not accessible much of the time. Why does it not work? I can only get access using Chrome. Why is that?



36 weeks 1 day ago

[Nora Knox](#)

Digital Marketing Manager, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Glenn, we have not heard of anyone having these issues, but our IT team will reach out to you directly to help with any issues you're having.



1 year 9 weeks ago

[Deborah Lucking](#)

Fentress Architects

I am looking for additional clarification on the "substantially similar" criteria for buildings in a Group Certification. Could someone point me in the right direction please. Thanks.



1 year 6 days ago

[Eric Anderson](#)

LEED Specialist, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Deborah, Please note that buildings within a Group only have to be 'substantially similar' in the EBOM rating system/s In the D+C rating systems the buildings/spaces just have to qualify for the same particular rating system to pursue Group (along with the other qualifications listed in the AGMBC). The Glossary of the AGMBC (<http://www.usgbc.org/articles/new-and-improved-way-certify-multiple-buil...>) defines it thusly: Substantially similar – For EBOM group certification, projects must contain buildings that function as a cohesive facility, such as a collection of dormitories or a corporate headquarters. In these cases, it is expected that all building are the same space type, but exceptions may be made for some projects with limited deviation, such as a corporate headquarters that has a separate cafeteria building that falls under the same central management and can legitimately be included as part of the group certification.

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