

# New Options in LEED Address Unique Challenges Posed by European Built Environment

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*Solutions for Europe developed by European technical experts.*

Washington, D.C. — (July 2, 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, have added [Alternative Compliance Paths \(ACPs\) for LEED projects in Europe](#). ACPs are a tool that allows LEED to be more flexible and applicable for a range of building projects across the globe. The first round of ACPs, tailored for Europe, will provide global consistency and new pathways for projects to demonstrate compliance.

ACPs provide additional options or approaches to LEED credits that address unique project needs and advancements in science and technology. Europe was selected as a starting point due to LEED's growth in the region and use of the [LEED Existing Buildings and Operations Maintenance \(EBOM\) rating system](#). USGBC also plans to announce LEED ACPs for Asia and South America in the near future.

"This is a first for LEED," said Scot Horst, senior vice president of LEED. "LEED is a global language and our goal is to always make the rating system more regionally appropriate. This is the first time that we have developed LEED credit language with technical experts from Europe. These new ACPs address the unique challenges faced by European projects."

The LEED 2009 EBOM Europe Alternative Compliance Paths were developed in cooperation with European members of the LEED International Roundtable, led by GBC Italia, and approved by the LEED Steering Committee. This approach leveraged the expertise of international users by developing solutions directly in conjunction with the market. Working group countries included: Germany, France, Turkey, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Romania, Finland, Norway and Poland.

USGBC will continue working to ensure the flexibility of the LEED green building rating system for all markets through the development of more ACPs. In China last week, USGBC staff met with regional technical experts to begin exploring the process of developing ACPs for Asia.

LEED encourages sustainable development and green building practices around the world. Currently there are LEED-registered and certified projects in more than 140 countries and territories globally. Daily, 1.5 million square feet (140,000 square meters) of construction space earns LEED certification.

Follow updates on Twitter @usgbc with hashtag #EuropeACPs

Questions? Contact [commonlanguage@usgbc.org](mailto:commonlanguage@usgbc.org)

## **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](http://usgbc.org) and connect on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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. Every day, more than 1.5 million square feet (140,000 square meters) of space is certified using LEED. Nearly 54,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising 9.7 billion square feet (905,812,824 square meters) of construction space in more than 140 countries and territories. In addition, close to 40,000 residential units have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system, with more than 100,000 homes registered. Learn more at [usgbc.org/leed](http://usgbc.org/leed) and review the [Foundations of LEED development process](#).

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