

LEED AND THE INTERNATIONAL GREEN CONSTRUCTION CODE



The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) is the first model code to incorporate sustainability measures for an entire construction project and its site. Updated periodically following its initial 2010 release by the International Code Council (ICC), the IgCC establishes minimum green requirements for buildings, providing baseline green benefits and a foundation for applying complementary voluntary systems.

The IgCC is developed and updated using an ANSI accredited consensus-based process. The code is modernized in part through input from stakeholders in the fields of government, business, engineering, architecture, healthcare and more. Remaining mindful of the unique needs of individual communities across the globe, the IgCC offers flexibility to jurisdictions by providing a comprehensive package of measures that can be modified when adopted to suit local conditions. This structure provides options appropriate for the unique challenges and goals of each local community.

2018 INTERNATIONAL GREEN CONSTRUCTION CODE (2018-IgCC)

The 2018 International Green Construction Code, otherwise known as the [2018-IgCC](#), is a groundbreaking model building code that helps municipalities save money, protect resources and increase the resilience, safety and standards of living for communities around the world.



The co-sponsoring organizations of the 2018-IgCC include the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) (USGBC), [International Code Council](#) (ICC), [ASHRAE](#) and the [Illuminating Engineering Society](#) (IES).

This latest update to the International Green Construction Code accomplishes two important tasks:

- 1) Helps governments streamline code development and adoption; and
- 2) Improves building industry standardization by integrating two previously separate guidance documents: [ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES 189.1 - Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low Rise Residential Buildings](#), and ICC's [International Green Construction Code](#).

The 2018-IgCC adheres to the latest research in order to protect public health, safety and welfare – all while providing direct benefits to builders and owners. It combines the technical requirements developed through the [ASHRAE Standard 189.1](#) process with the model code administrative provisions set by the ICC – resulting in a unified code that delivers high performance buildings in a code-enforceable package.

The IgCC is a part of the ICC's suite of comprehensive, coordinated and modern model codes – including the International Building Code, International Mechanical Code, International Plumbing Code, International Energy Conservation Code and International Fire Code – and suitable for use in building codes everywhere.

CODES AND LEED: A COMPLEMENTARY RELATIONSHIP

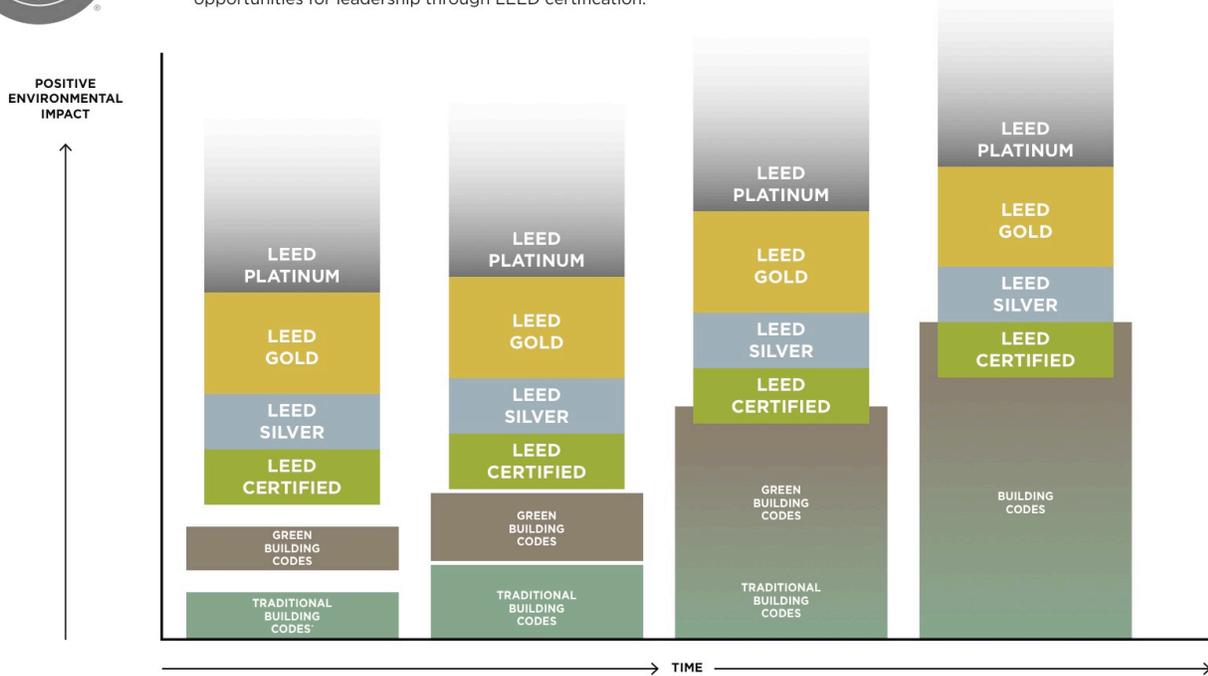
LEED has transformed how the building industry and public sector address sustainability in the built environment. The rise of green construction codes is a success for the industry, contributing to job creation and security, economic growth, and facilitating design strategies that enhance a project's resilience. USGBC is committed to supporting green construction codes as a means of accelerating market transformation.

Through LEED, foundational green building strategies have become mainstream in North American markets and throughout the world. This progress is evident at the state and local levels, as municipal governments and local jurisdictions continue to adopt green construction criteria as policy, many of which are based on or reference LEED.



Accelerating Market Transformation through Building Codes and LEED

Traditional building code is evolving to include sustainability measures, leading to a redefinition of leadership in the built environment. LEED and building codes must work together to support complementary best practices in order to fuel higher levels of performance and sustainability. USGBC works with jurisdictions to align LEED with local code to help projects exceed minimum requirements and provide opportunities for leadership through LEED certification.



As traditional building codes increasingly incorporate green strategies, project teams are better positioned to effectively address the cross-cutting categories of site selection, water conservation, energy efficiency, renewables, indoor environmental quality, and resource conservation.

LEED and building codes work together to support best practices for the built environment. By encouraging sustainable and achievable design strategies, LEED raises consumers' expectations for conventional construction standards, thus reinforcing the value of implementing green codes. In turn, widespread and supportive green codes are imperative to the continued success of LEED. Achievement of the LEED rating system—especially at the upper levels of certification—relies on a robust and supportive community of advanced professionals, organizations, and manufacturers. USGBC knows a strong, comprehensive and widely adopted green building code is vital for achieving social, economic and environmental outcomes.

LEED RECOGNITION FOR PROJECTS BUILT TO 2018-IgCC STANDARDS

USGBC aims to facilitate the work of building professionals and policymakers alike in adopting greener building strategies. USGBC works with jurisdictions and supports adoption of green codes as well as progressively more energy efficient energy

codes. For example, USGBC has worked in places like California to develop alternative compliance pathways (ACPs) in LEED when projects build to the state's green building code. This alignment helps streamline the process for exceeding minimum code requirements, and provides more straightforward opportunities for leadership by achieving LEED certification. Similar to California, USGBC will recognize project teams pursuing LEED certification for their compliance with select 2018-IgCC measures when building in a jurisdiction that has adopted the 2018-IgCC.

INCORPORATING 2018-IgCC INTO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

USGBC, along with its community of members and LEED professionals, have long been engaged in supporting building codes. For example, USGBC members have participated in committees that develop codes; and have supported the uptake and expansion of energy and green codes through testimony and comment letters. With the 2018-IgCC, USGBC anticipates increased interest from state and local jurisdictions in employing green codes. USGBC and our partners are committed to working with leaders from cities and counties across the country to highlight the benefits of the green codes, develop supportive policy tools, and deliver educational resources helpful in adopting of the 2018-IgCC.

Visit new.usgbc.org/green-codes to learn more.