



USGBC: Helping Cities Engage Residents and Businesses in Sustainable Development

JUNE 2021

USGBC has served as a resource to local governments since our inception. Cities, towns and counties were attracted to LEED's holistic approach to green building and USGBC's work to bring significant environmental, health, and social benefits to their community. Local governments around the world have [adopted green building policies](#), incentives, programs and strategies to capture green building's many benefits.

This proven approach used by [USGBC](#), [LEED](#) and our growing [LEED for Cities and Communities program](#)—setting intentional goals, implementing best practices, measuring progress, and certifying achievement—continues to be the standard at the forefront of sustainable development.

In our third decade, USGBC is fully committed to supporting local governments on the path to a more sustainable, resilient, healthy and just future. We are equipped to support elected and appointed officials, staff, and advocates on a range of issues and programs. This brief highlights key USGBC programs, and some of the ways we can help you on your jurisdiction's sustainability journey.

COMMUNITY

Our vision at USGBC is only successful due to the partnership and support of change-makers, businesses, nonprofit and governmental leaders who understand the value of LEED and are committed to advancing green building and sustainability.

USGBC members and volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and experiences but share one steadfast commitment: The urgency of climate, the new appreciation for the nexus of buildings and health, and the prospects for significant federal investment in infrastructure make 2021 a critical year for accelerating the transformation of our homes, buildings, communities and cities into healthier and more resilient spaces.

Our communities provide opportunities for local governments to be part of the green building movement, such as by:

- Participating in LEED tours, ribbon cuttings and plaque ceremonies
- Sharing USGBC event information and educational opportunities with their built environment staff and volunteers
- Engaging with the local USGBC Community through their networking events, partnerships and Market Leadership Advisory Board.

For more information, contact community@usgbc.org

LEED FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

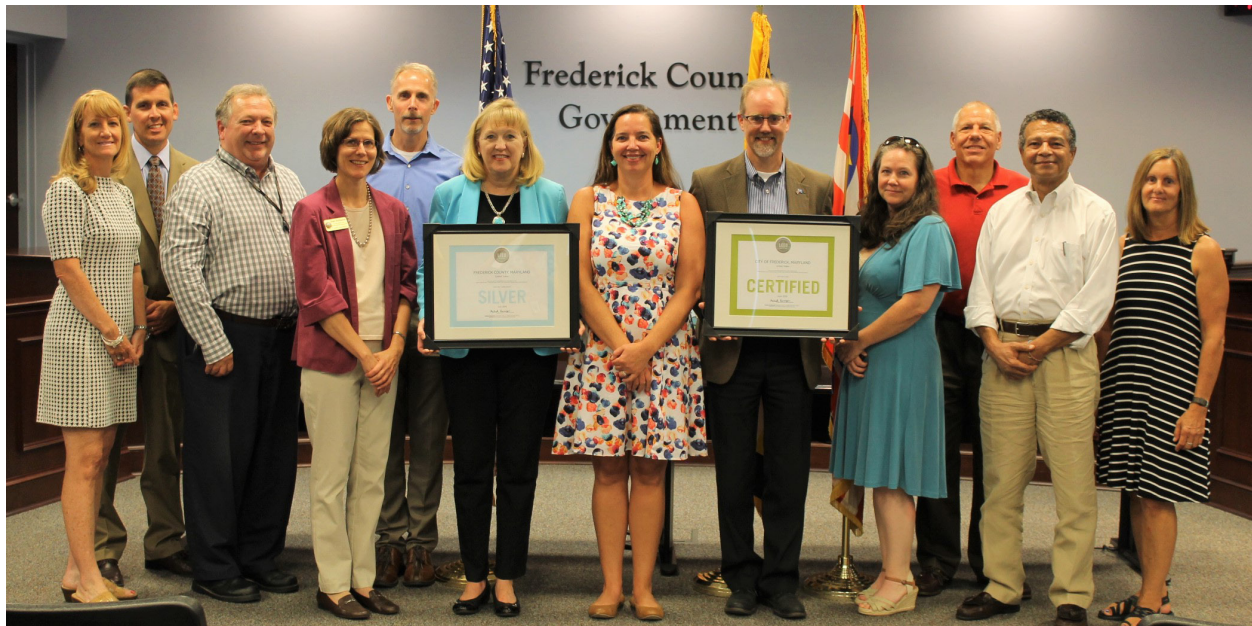
Our LEED for Cities and Communities team works with local leaders to help them create responsible, sustainable and specific plans for natural systems, energy, water, waste, transportation and many other factors that contribute to quality of life.

LEED for Cities and Communities provides a roadmap to help evaluate and track progress on economic, environmental and social conditions in your city, town or county. The rating system includes seven core categories, with prerequisites, credits and opportunities to showcase innovation and regional priorities. The program is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The team creates [resources](#) including videos, case studies, articles, and how-to guides, and convenes local governments on focused topics for education and peer-to-peer dialogue. They facilitate a national cohort of cities and counties engaged in certification through the [LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program](#) with funding support from the Bank of America.

As of June 1, 2021, nearly 130 cities and communities around the globe are certified using LEED for Cities and Communities to communicate continuous performance to their residents and businesses.

Contact us today at cities@usgbc.org!



ADVOCACY AND POLICY

USGBC's Advocacy and Policy team works closely with local government officials and their staff through advocacy, policy support, education and briefings.

The team creates resources on policies and key outcomes of interest to localities. Examples include:

- A [policy library](#) tracking green building policies and programs across the country.
- Our [Greenbuilding Infrastructure Hub for Policymakers](#), a collection of free courses and briefs curated with local government in mind
- [Articles](#) to support new policy, share lessons learned and celebrate policy success.
- [Case studies](#) and [briefs](#) with research on best in class policies to use in policy development

The Advocacy & Policy team often works closely with local governments to develop, support, enact, and implement new or revised green building policies. And, we can help connect you with our local members and volunteers.

Considering a new policy initiative? Reach out anytime to publicpolicies@usgbc.org

“As a city we must lead by example. There is still much work to do and we are committed to showcasing how a modern city can protect our environment and our natural resources and still have a robust economy.”

— MAYOR BUDDY DYER, ORLANDO, LEED GOLD 2019

EDUCATION

Local governments can support their staff in advancing sustainability knowledge and credentials. Our Education team is available as a resource for technical issues, subscription questions, or help identifying key content.

Our platform **Education @USGBC** offers a selection of free online courses, and subscription access more than 900 online green building and sustainability courses. In addition, the catalog features local in-person events. These best-in-class courses can help you fulfill continuing education requirements as well as prepare for a LEED professional credentials exam

Local governments can leverage digital **badges** to recognize and reward awareness or proficiency in distinct knowledge areas. These can inspire personnel across different departments and roles to learn more about sustainability.

For help, contact educationresources@usgbc.org



CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS

The **Center for Green Schools** works hand in hand with local educational agencies across the country to advance green schools. Through its educational resources, professional learning networks, and industry-recognized tools, the Center team equips supporters to educate students about global sustainability and deepen learning by acting in their communities.

The Center team is ready to work with you through programs including:

- The **Green Classroom Professional Course** helps teachers and school staff learn to recognize, implement, and communicate practices that keep a classroom healthy and help teachers and students be focused, alert and ready to learn
- **Learning Lab**, the online source for K-12 educators with over 600 hands-on lessons from respected K-12 sustainability curriculum designers and educators.
- The **Building Learners** program is a data-driven package that uses your school's eco footprint to bring STEM concepts to life.
- The **School Sustainability Leaders Network** is the only professional learning community in the country that supports K-12 staff working to expand sustainability programs.
- **Green Schools Conference & Expo**, our annual event focused on the latest developments in greener, more resilient and healthy schools.

For help, contact schools@usgbc.org

NEXT STEPS

USGBC remains committed to helping cities, towns and communities realize our shared belief that **healthy people in healthy places** is the fastest way to build a healthy economy.

LEED brings a structure and value-add to city policies and programs, helping local governments achieve meaningful change and delivering results like attracting new economic activity, reaching climate targets, improving air and water quality, and enhancing quality of life for all.

Our teams are available to connect elected officials, government staff and policymakers with our many resources and tools which aim to enhance quality of life for their residents and businesses through creating a more sustainable and resource efficient built environment.

Get started by contacting info@usgbc.org

USGBC RESOURCES

U.S. Green Building Council

LEED: Green building leadership rating system

Arc: digital platform for measuring and tracking building performance

Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI): for rating systems other than LEED

USGBC+ Magazine

USGBC MEMBERSHIP

USGBC membership demonstrates your support for USGBC and the growing green building movement, and continues the work to pioneer a green economy that is redefining modern leadership.

Membership benefits include savings on certifications, and extend to member organization employees who can maintain their LEED credentials through access to USGBC's education platform.

