

Guide to Certification in LEED v4.1 for Existing Cities



A how-to guide for local governments getting started
U.S. Green Building Council | 2021

Welcome

Congratulations on your decision to pursue LEED for Cities certification! This guide provides details associated with certification in LEED v4.1 for Existing Cities, which is the version of the rating system for local governments.

After reviewing the contents, please contact cities@usgbc.org directly with additional questions that you may have.

Sections of the Certification Guide

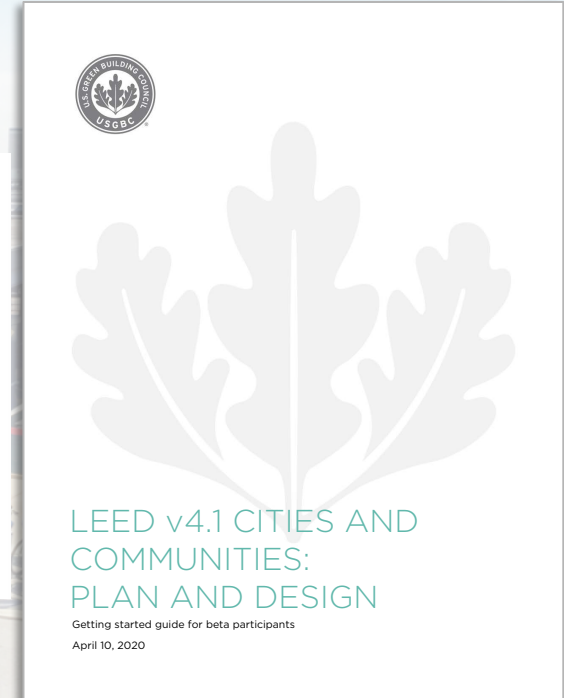
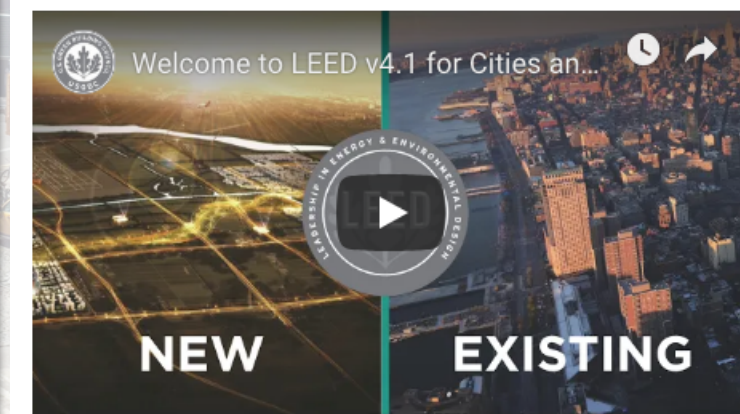
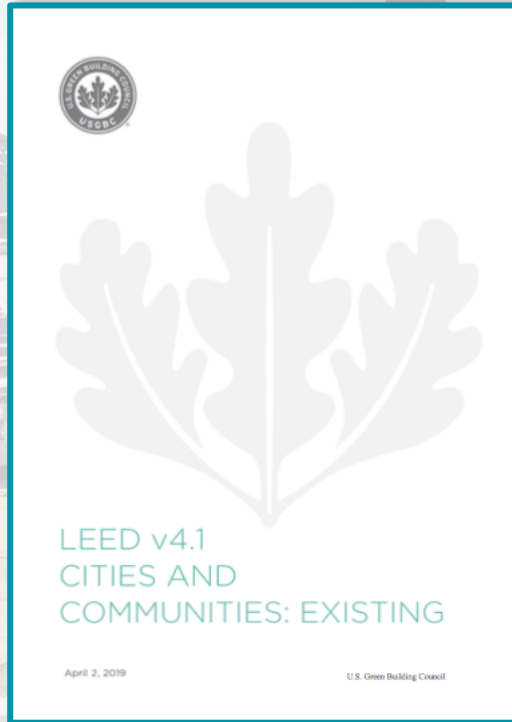
1. Introduction to LEED for Cities certification
2. Getting Organized
3. Collecting & Organizing Data
4. The Certification Process
5. Next Steps: Post-Certification

1. Introduction



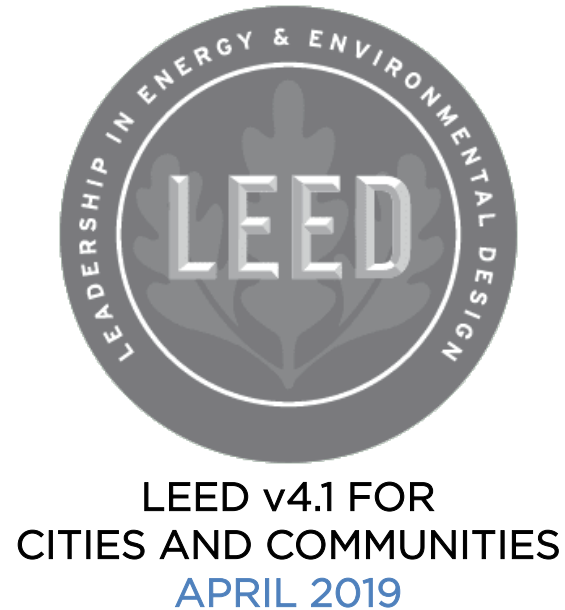
LEED for Cities is the leading global rating system and certification program for evaluating sustainability and quality of life.

LEED v4.1 for Cities and Communities released April 2019. Local governments use the “Existing Cities” variant.

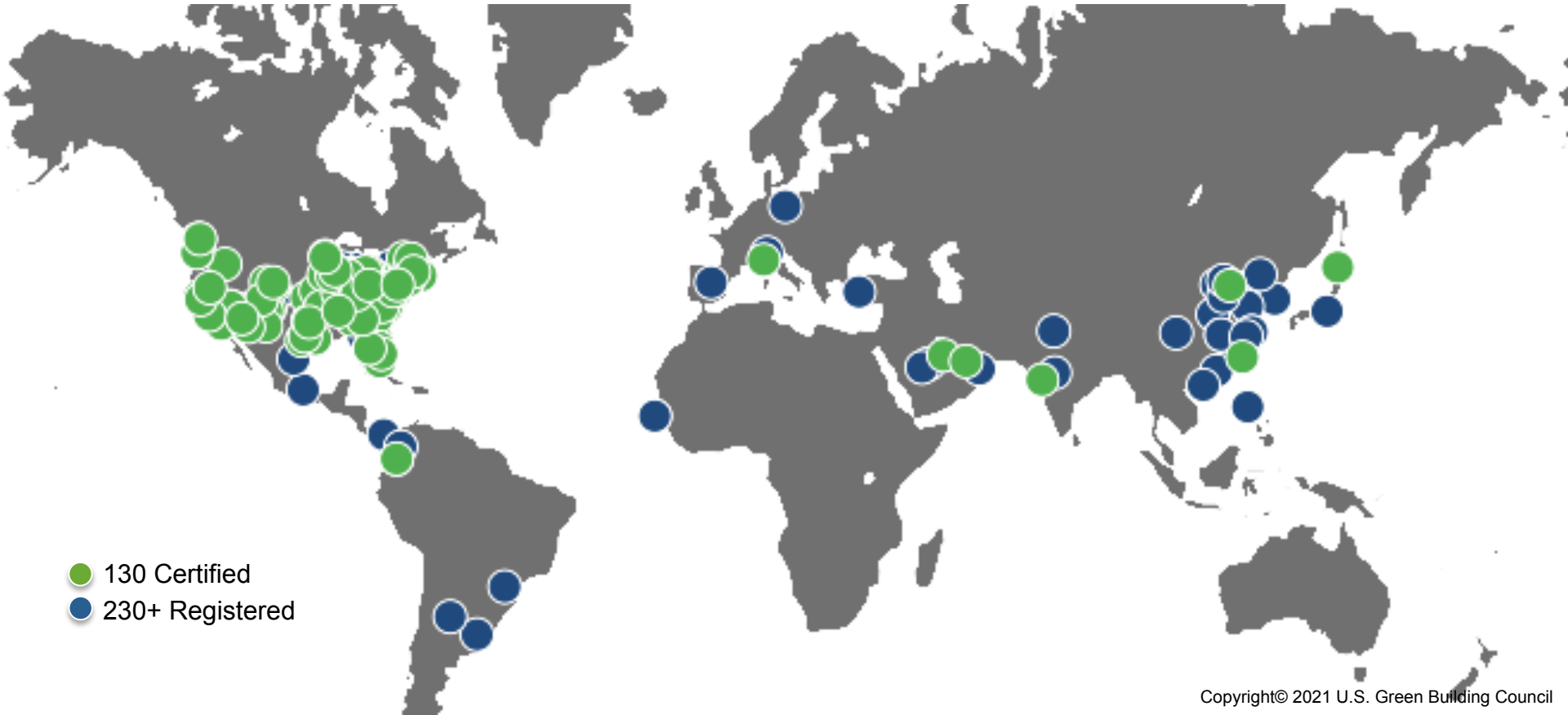


Download the rating system at <https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/leed-for-cities>

The rating system incorporates content from the STAR Community Rating System, LEED for Cities pilot and other rating systems at USGBC and GBCI.



Cities and communities around the world are engaged in our certification program.

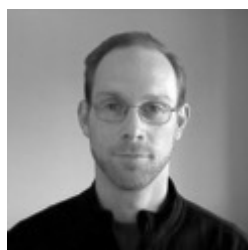


LEED for Cities is aligned with global goals.



Download our LEED for Cities and UN SDG alignment report here:

<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/explore-how-leed-cities-and-communities-aligns-un-sustainable-development-goals>



The LEED Cities and Communities Working Group was established in 2019 to engage stakeholders in the rating system's evolution and program. View their Purpose Statement [here](#).

LEED Program Goals for Cities and Communities

- Inspire leadership, transformation and innovation in urban sustainability.
- Protect biodiversity and regenerate ecosystem services.
- Meet and exceed net zero carbon, energy, waste and water.
- Achieve livability, choice and access for all, where people live, work and play.
- Raise the standard of living and quality of life for humans all around the globe.



Rating System Scorecard



LEED for Cities and Communities: Existing

Project Checklist

Y ? N

Cities Communities

	0	0	0	INTEGRATIVE PROCESS	POSSIBLE: 5	POSSIBLE: 5
				Credit Integrative Planning and Leadership	1	1
				Credit Green Building Policy and Incentives	4	4
	0	0	0	NATURAL SYSTEMS AND ECOLOGY	POSSIBLE: 9	POSSIBLE: 9
				Prereq Ecosystem Assessment	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
				Credit Green Spaces	2	2
				Credit Natural Resources Conservation and Restoration	2	2
				Credit Light Pollution Reduction	1	1
				Credit Resilience Planning	4	4
	0	0	0	TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE	POSSIBLE: 15	POSSIBLE: 15
				Prereq Transportation Performance	6	6
				Credit Compact, Mixed Use and Transit Oriented Development	2	2
				Credit Access to Quality Transit	1	1
				Credit Alternative Fuel Vehicles	2	2
				Credit Smart Mobility and Transportation Policy	2	2
				Credit High-Priority Site	2	2
	0	0	0	WATER EFFICIENCY	POSSIBLE: 11	POSSIBLE: 11
				Prereq Water Access and Quality	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
				Prereq Water Performance	6	6
				Credit Integrated Water Management	1	1
				Credit Stormwater Management	2	2
				Credit Smart Water Systems	2	2
	0	0	0	ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	POSSIBLE: 30	POSSIBLE: 30
				Prereq Power Access, Reliability and Resiliency	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
				Prereq Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance	14	18
				Credit Energy Efficiency	4	4
				Credit Renewable Energy	6	6
				Credit Low Carbon Economy	4	-
				Credit Grid Harmonization	2	2





Project Name

Project ID

Date

Y ? N

Cities Communities

	0	0	0	MATERIALS AND RESOURCES	POSSIBLE: 10	POSSIBLE: 10
				Prereq Solid Waste Management	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
				Prereq Waste Performance	4	5
				Credit Special Waste Streams Management	1	1
				Credit Responsible Sourcing for Infrastructure	2	2
				Credit Material Recovery	1	-
				Credit Smart Waste Management Systems	2	2
	0	0	0	QUALITY OF LIFE	POSSIBLE: 20	POSSIBLE: 20
				Prereq Demographic Assessment	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
				Prereq Quality of Life Performance	6	6
				Credit Trend Improvements	4	4
				Credit Distributional Equity	4	4
				Credit Environmental Justice	1	1
				Credit Housing and Transportation Affordability	2	2
				Credit Civic and Community Engagement	2	2
				Credit Civil and Human Rights	1	1
	0	0	0	INNOVATION	POSSIBLE: 6	POSSIBLE: 6
				Credit Innovation	6	6
	0	0	0	REGIONAL PRIORITY	POSSIBLE: 4	POSSIBLE: 4
				Credit Regional Priority	4	4
0	0	0	0	TOTAL	110	110
				40-49	50-59	60-79
				CERTIFIED	SILVER	GOLD
						80+ Points
						PLATINUM

Prerequisites

Required

Base conditions

- Access and quality

Performance score

- Benchmark-scored indicator

Credits

Optional

Outcomes

- Quantitative; measured at the city of community scale; trend lines or thresholds

Strategies

- Qualitative; identified as best practices; reflect actions taken to achieve results

Prerequisites: Base Conditions

Category	
Natural Systems and Ecology	Ecosystem Assessment
Water Efficiency	Water Access and Quality
Energy & GHG Emissions	Power Access, Reliability, and Resiliency
Materials and Resources	Solid Waste Management
Quality of Life	Demographic Assessment

Prerequisites: Performance

Category	Performance Reported to Arc
Transportation	Vehicle Miles Traveled (daily per capita)
Water	Domestic Water Consumption (daily per capita)
Energy & GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (annually per capita)
Waste	Municipal solid waste generated (annually per capita) Municipal solid waste diverted (% of total generated)
Human Experience / Quality of Life Category	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population with (at least) a High School Degree Population with (at least) a Bachelor's Degree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equitability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Median Gross Rent as % of Household Income Gini Coefficient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosperity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Median Household Income Unemployment Rate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Median Air Quality Index (AQI) Air Quality Days Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Violent Crime



Credits

Optional

Outcomes

- Quantitative; measured at the city or community-scale; trend lines or thresholds
- Example: Identify compact and complete centers then demonstrate % of population residing within CCC.

Strategies

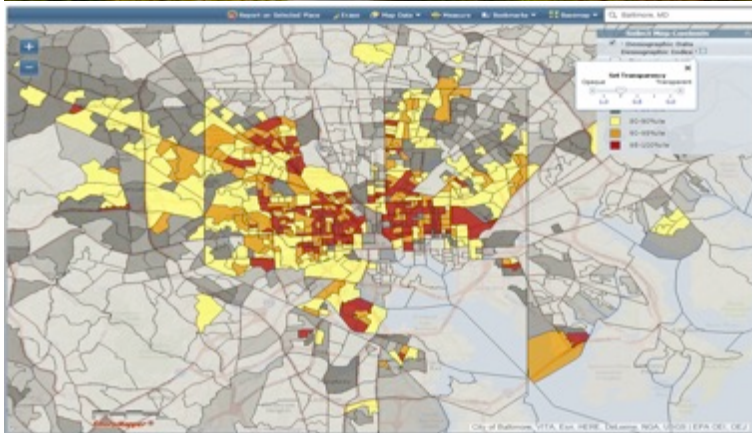
- Qualitative; identified as best practices; reflect actions taken to achieve results
- Example: Adopt a comprehensive housing policy; housing needs assessment; healthy housing standards



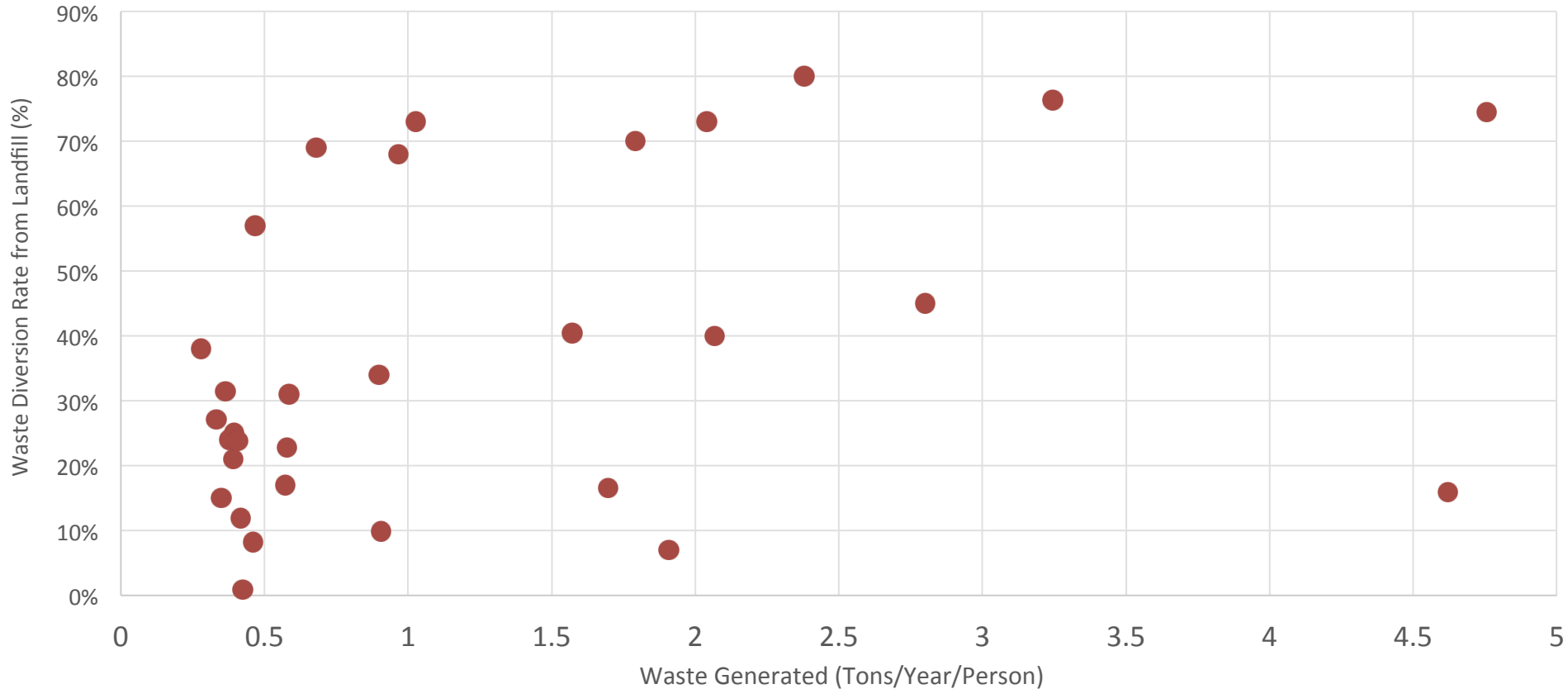
TR Credit: Compact, Mixed Use and TOD



✓ Evaluate local conditions



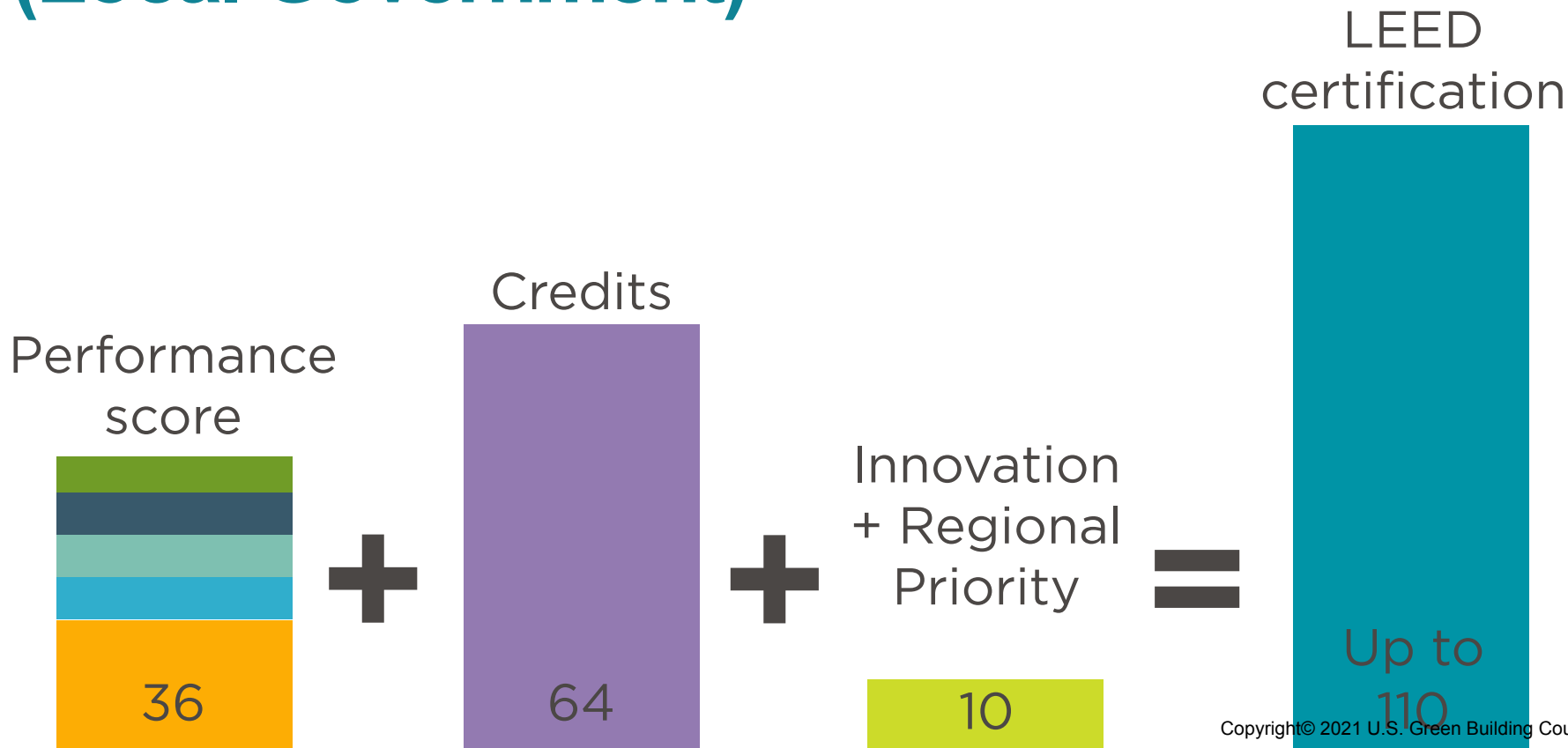
✓ Benchmark performance with peers



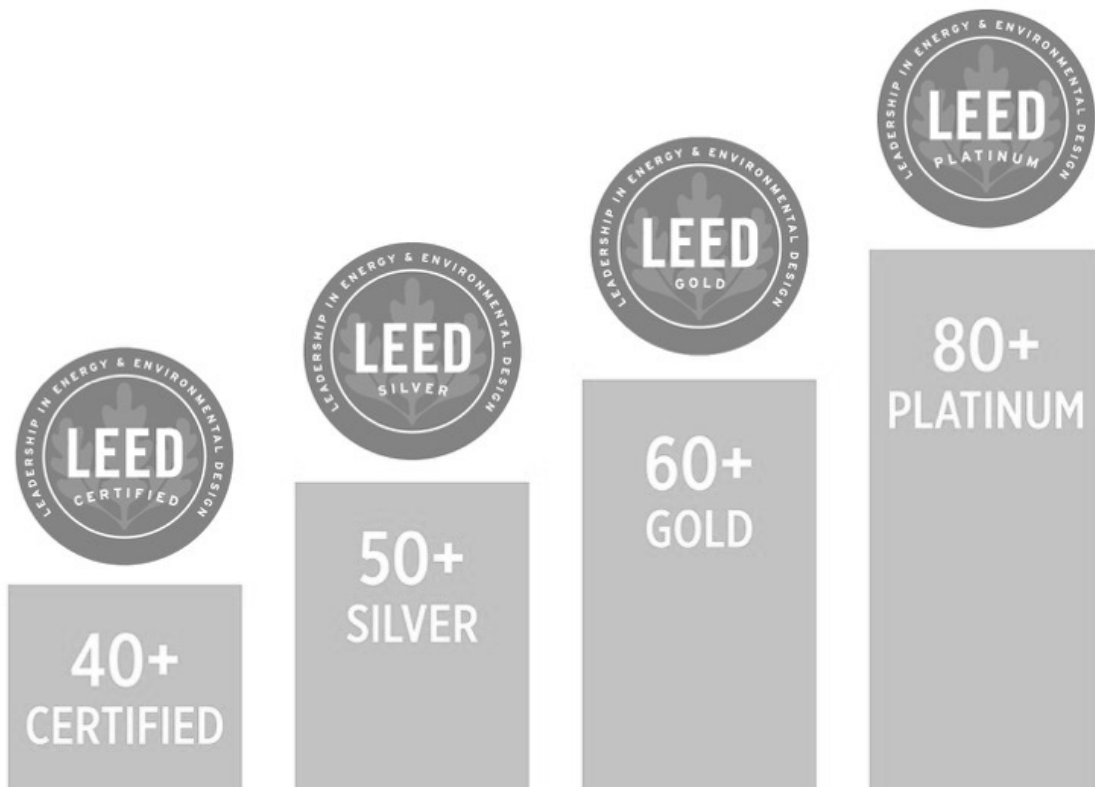
✓ **Demonstrate progress**



Points and Scoring (Local Government)



LEED for Cities certification levels are aligned with the other LEED rating systems.

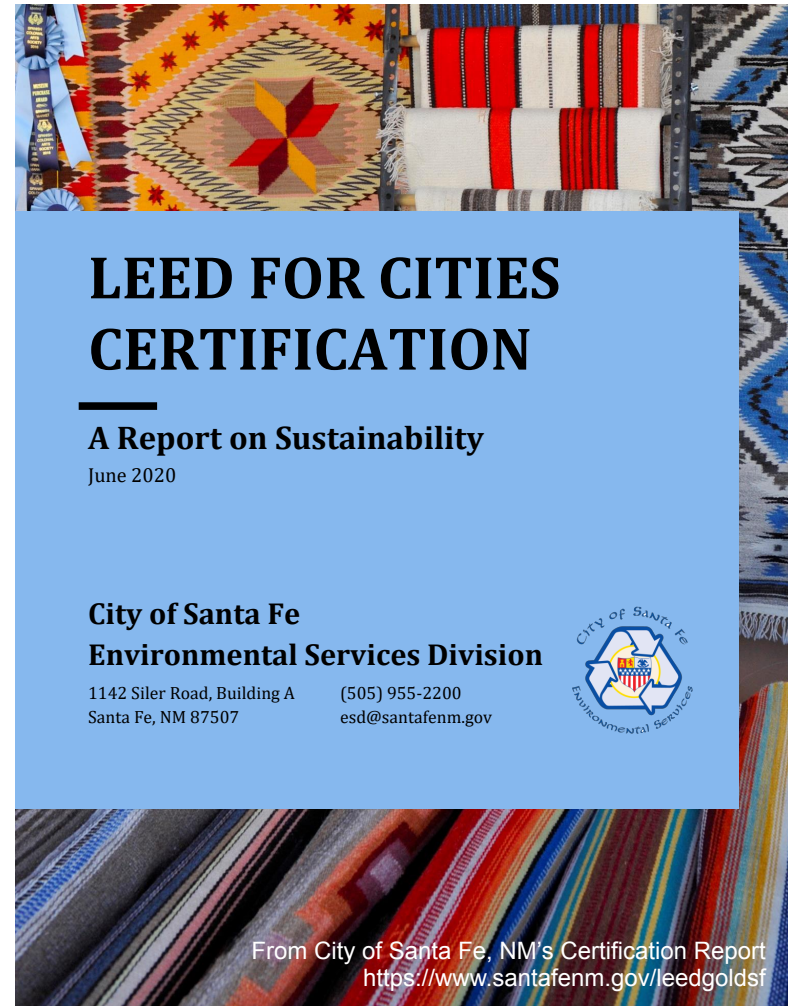


Benefits of certification

LEED for Cities certification allows you to credibly and transparently benchmark your sustainability performance against global standards and strategies as well as other local governments.

Certification provides a robust, data-driven, independently verified assessment of your community's strengths and weaknesses across social, environmental, and economic conditions. Improvement is measured through recertification every 5 years.

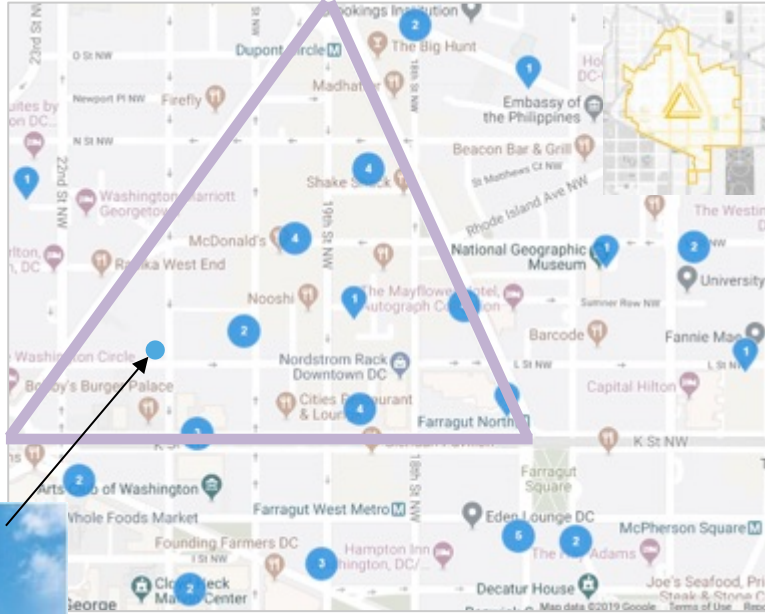
Certification is a great way to jumpstart a community planning effort, conduct an audit of performance management systems, and/or ensure that you are directing resources efficiently and effectively to the areas of greatest need.



Connecting LEED Buildings, Communities & Cities

Certified LEED
Platinum
Community |
Golden Triangle
BID

63 LEED Certified
Buildings: 42% of the
total built area



Certified LEED Platinum City |
District of Columbia

- 1620 LEED Certified Buildings
- Golden Triangle BID is an example of a high performing DC community



USGBC Headquarters

- LEED Platinum Certified Offices and Gold Certified Building, located in the Golden Triangle BID



LEED offers opportunities for **New** and **Existing** cities and communities



Plan, Design & Develop



Operate & Manage



Continuously Improve

New

Strategies for new and developing places

Existing

Performance measures plus strategies for existing places

Recertification

Performance pathway to recertification for all projects and places

Pro Tip ✓

Take the opportunity to deepen your relationship (and your local governments) with LEED and USGBC along the way.



Chris Castro, Director of Sustainability & Resilience, City of Orlando, FL

- Led Orlando to LEED Gold in 2019
- Joined the Cities and Communities Working Group in August 2020
- Received the USGBC Leadership Award at Greenbuild 2020
- Serving as Mentor and Market Leader in Florida and Beyond
- Advancing Green Building Policy in Orlando

2. Getting Organized

In this section, we will cover:

- Registration
- Training opportunities
- Accessing tools and resources
- Organizing your team
- Developing an action plan and roadmap

Register

The first step to pursuing LEED for Cities certification is to register on [LEED Online](#).

Detailed step-by-step instructions are found [here](#).



LEED Online

Streamline your LEED project management experience, organize your work, and engage with your whole team.

Now available for LEED v4 and LEED 2009 projects.

[Terms of Use](#) [Privacy](#)

LOG IN

☐ Remember me

By clicking on "LOG IN" below, you affirm that you continue to abide by our [Cookie Statement](#), [Privacy Statement](#) and [Terms of Use](#) for the lawful use of this website, as these policies have recently been changed.

☐ I accept the [End User License Agreement](#).

LOG IN



[Check System Requirements](#)

NO USGBC ACCOUNT?

No problem—just fill in some basic information and a USGBC login will be yours in a flash.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Receive Training and Support

Once you've registered on LEED Online and Arc, a LEED for Cities staff member will connect with you to discuss your goals and set up an introductory call.

Our LEED for Cities staff is available to support web-based trainings for you and your team to get you up to speed on the rating system and certification process. Training could cover the framework of the rating system, key terms, the scoring and verification process, resources, examples of how other communities are using LEED for Cities, and tips for getting started. We will work with you to suit your local needs.



Introductory, On-Demand Training Videos

Are you looking for an overview and introduction to the LEED for Cities rating system? Consider these resources at USGBC.org and the USGBC YouTube Channel.

- View our introductory LEED for Cities and Communities YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0arx2tsTUfg&t=2s>
- Learn more about the Requirements for Existing Cities and Communities:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUcFxpM6pio&t=11s>
- View our free, introductory Education course:
<https://www.usgbc.org/education/sessions/leed-v41-cities-and-communities-introductory-course-12619234>

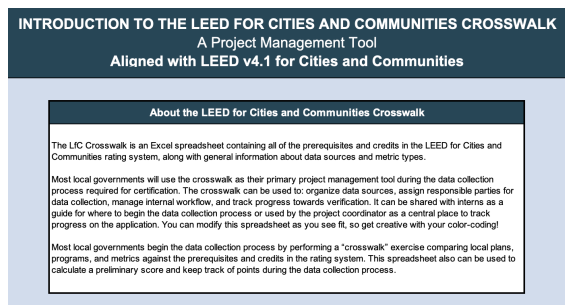
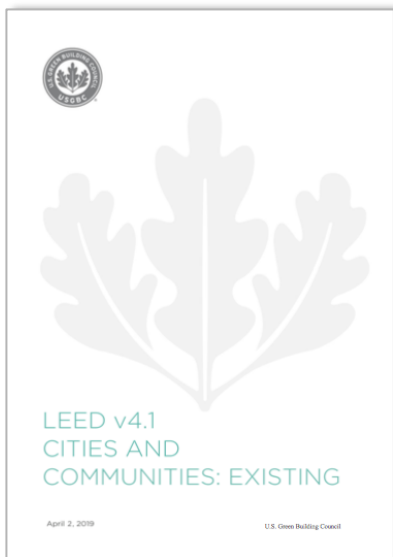
Access Tools and Resources

The [LEED for Cities website](#) provides educational case studies, online courses, and tools that are all essential to the certification process.



Navigate to the bottom of the webpage.
Under the "Tools and resources" section
there are two documents to start with:

1. Guide for Existing Cities and Communities
2. LEED for Cities Crosswalk Tool



Tools and resources

Rating system resources

- Scorecards
 - Existing Cities and Communities
 - New Places (Plan and Design Phase)
- Rating Systems
 - Existing Cities and Communities
 - New Places (Plan and Design Phase)
- Guides
 - Existing Cities and Communities
 - New Places (Plan and Design Phase)
 - Spanish LEED v4.1 Cities and Communities: Plan and Design Guide

+ Videos




+ Case studies

+ Articles


- How to guides and publications


- LEED for Cities Crosswalk Tool - Local Governments
- Measuring Community Resilience with LEED v4.1 for Cities and Communities
- Using STAR to Integrate Sustainability into Community Planning Efforts
- STAR Climate Guide – Using STAR to prioritize planning and make decisions
- The STAR Community Rating System continues many actions and strategies for community-scale sustainability.
- Aligning Sustainability Plans with LEED for Cities and Communities

We recommend bookmarking the LEED Credit Library, <https://www.usgbc.org/credits>

[About](#) [LEED](#) [Credentials](#) [Education](#) [Membership](#) [Store](#) [Resources](#) [Directory](#) [Articles](#) [Donate](#) [Account](#) 

LEED Credit library

GETTING STARTED 

CREDIT CATEGORY 

☐ Integrative Process

☐ Natural Systems and Ecology

☐ Transportation and Land Use

☐ Water Efficiency


☐ Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

☐ Materials and Resources


☐ Quality of Life

☐ Innovation


☐ Regional Priority


INNOVATION 



Select a Rating System

LEED Cities: Existing 


Select a Version

v4.1 - LEED v4.1 






46 credits



Integrative Planning and Leadership
Integrative process credits
LEED Cities: Existing • V4.1 - LEED V4.1



Green Building Policy and Incentives
Integrative process credits
Up to 4 points
LEED Cities: Existing • V4.1 - LEED V4.1

Organize Your Team



Over the years, we've seen a variety of successful team structures for certification. The most common team structure is to have 1-2 core project managers from the city or county, supported by an intern, an existing interdepartmental working group, a community sustainability group, a consultant, and/or a university partner.

When deciding who should be on your core project team, you should consider the maturity of your sustainability program, access to local data, staff capacity, jurisdiction size, and your community's desired certification level.

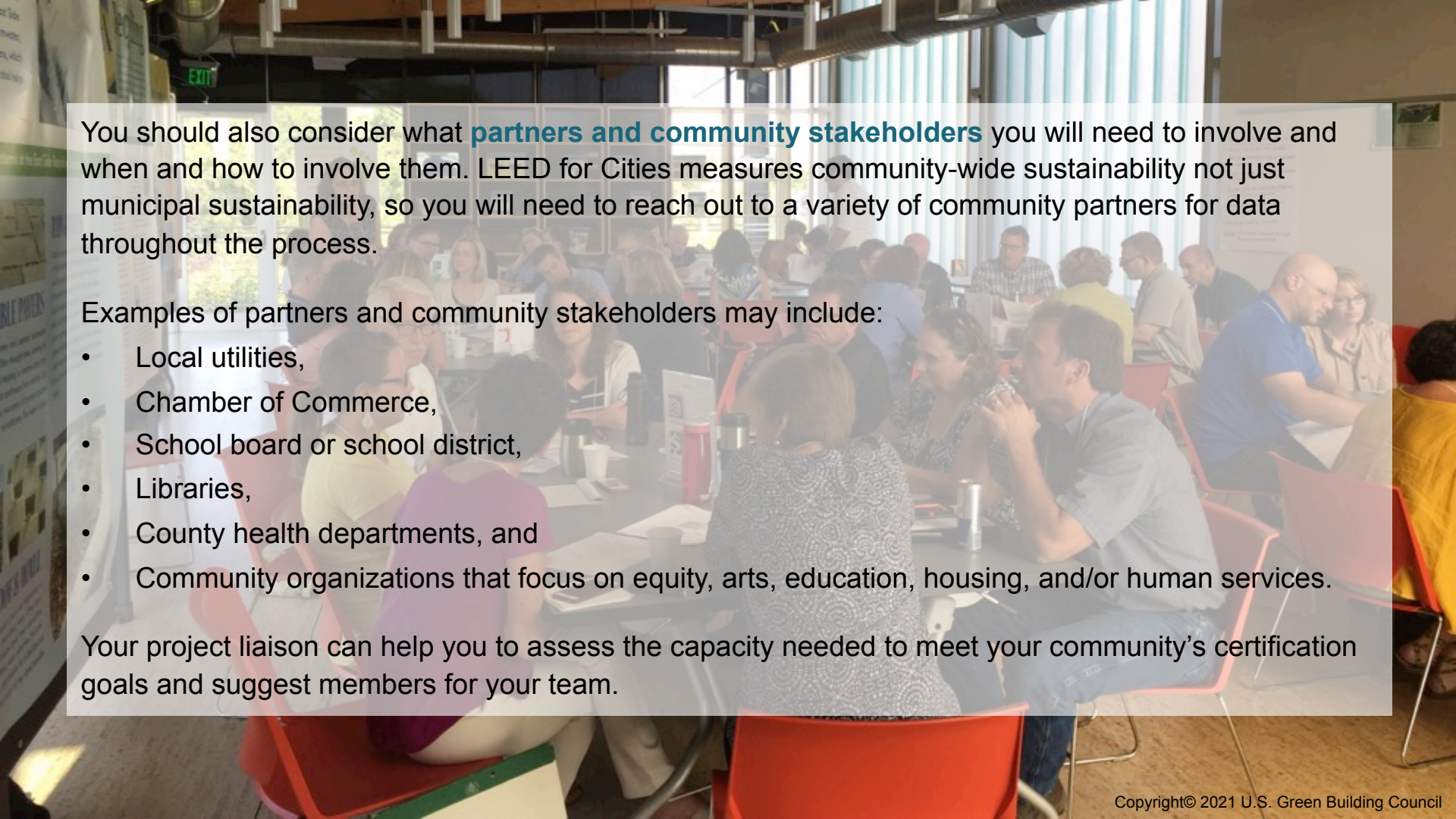
For example, a small to midsize community looking to do a quick baseline assessment may be able to complete the data collection required for certification within 2 months with one well-connected and knowledgeable staff member working half-time. But a large jurisdiction looking to pursue all credits may require extra staff capacity to complete the data collection process, because it will take more time to locate the right people in the right departments who can respond to data requests.

Interns

Many places choose to bring on an intern to support the data collection process. We recommend finding a graduate level student from a planning, sustainability, or public administration program. If you do not have funding available to pay for an intern, consider a partnership in which the student receives credit towards their degree or can use the internship as the basis for a thesis or capstone project.

To be most successful, interns will need guidance on whom to reach out to for each category, when, and by what method. Introducing the intern and the LEED for Cities project to relevant stakeholders at the beginning of the internship will help to guarantee that the stakeholders respond to data requests from the intern in a timely manner.





You should also consider what **partners and community stakeholders** you will need to involve and when and how to involve them. LEED for Cities measures community-wide sustainability not just municipal sustainability, so you will need to reach out to a variety of community partners for data throughout the process.

Examples of partners and community stakeholders may include:

- Local utilities,
- Chamber of Commerce,
- School board or school district,
- Libraries,
- County health departments, and
- Community organizations that focus on equity, arts, education, housing, and/or human services.

Your project liaison can help you to assess the capacity needed to meet your community's certification goals and suggest members for your team.

Once your team is organized:

- Host a workshop for staff and/or community partners to bring everyone together and get off to a running start.
- Set up recurring bi-weekly or monthly meetings for your core team members to keep everyone motivated and on track.



Develop an Action Plan and Roadmap



Now that you have downloaded and reviewed tools and resources and organized your team, it is time to develop an action plan together.

To kick off your project planning process, you should answer a few preliminary questions about your desired certification level and when you hope to be certified by:

- What level of certification do you hope to achieve?
- Is your desired level of certification reasonable, given staff capacity, maturity of your sustainability program, and access to high-quality, regularly tracked data within the community?
- Do you need to have your certification complete at a certain date? For example, you may want to have the certification complete so that you can announce the certification at an annual community sustainability event.
- Are you using the baseline assessment to identify gaps and opportunities to align or incorporate into a new plan?

Use the Action Planning Worksheet on the next slide to organize your thoughts.

Action Plan: LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program

Goals for Participation	Forming Your Team	Community Partners	Leadership Support	Short Term
How will we leverage the LEED for Cities certification process? Are there any current or upcoming planning processes we are or should be aligning with?	Who do we need to involve in our immediate team to be successful? How often will we meet?	Which outside partners should we involve? Non-profits, foundations, higher education? At which point in the process?	When is leadership (mayor, county admin, city manager, etc.) sending out a memo to departments to ensure participation? If this hasn't been determined, what needs to be done to ensure it happens?	What will we have accomplished in month one? Prerequisites finished? How about end of summer?
Certification Timeline	Data Collection	Intern	Potential Hurdles	Post-Certification
When do we want to be certified by? Are there any events we want to coordinate our certification with? Anticipate receiving your certification 12-weeks after submittal due to the review process.	How will we go about data collection? One project manager? Divide categories up? Will we have a kick-off meeting? Meet virtually with depts?	Will we hire an intern? What point in the process could an intern be the most helpful?	What are potential hurdles or roadblocks we may face over the coming months? GIS mapping, summer vacations, unavailable data, etc?	What are we doing after we achieve certification? How will our LEED for Cities certification tie into future initiatives?

Pro Tip ✓

Connect with a mentor who has done this before who can walk you through the process, share tips and tricks they developed, and offer encouragement and support. Reach out to USGBC if you need ideas.



Salem Afeworki, City of Costa Mesa, CA



Whit Remer, City of Tampa, FL

3. Collecting Data

In this section, we will:

- Highlight data collection best practices
- Review the Crosswalk Tool
- Review the Arc performance platform
- Review the certification application

Commencing the Data Collection Process

Many local governments opt to commence the data request process by sending out a formal memo from the city or county manager or other senior staff, asking for cooperation with the data gathering process. This could also be done through an announcement at a senior management meeting.

In general, having a clear vision for LEED for Cities certification and buy-in from elected officials and senior management will make it easier to quickly receive data from internal and external stakeholders.

All hands on deck staff meetings and kickoff events are common and good ways to provide an overview of the project and layout a clear timeline.



Organizing Data

Good organization and project management are crucial to a successful LEED for Cities certification process. You will receive many files and emails with information from staff and partners along the way and you'll need to be sure to keep track of deadlines, completed tasks, and supporting documentation.

Let's walk through the three key places where you will organize data along the certification process:

- LEED for Cities Crosswalk Tool
- Arc performance platform
- Offline certification application



The LEED for Cities Crosswalk Tool

The LEED for Cities Crosswalk Tool is an Excel-based project management tool.

Local leaders perform a “crosswalk” exercise or side by side analysis of prerequisites and credits contained in the rating system against existing plans, policies, programs, etc.

Doing so helps to identify which credits you have accomplished as well as any gaps where you might have to perform data collection for the first time.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LEED FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES CROSSWALK A Project Management Tool Aligned with LEED v4.1 for Cities and Communities

About the LEED for Cities and Communities Crosswalk

The LfC Crosswalk is an Excel spreadsheet containing all of the prerequisites and credits in the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system, along with general information about data sources and metric types.

Most local governments will use the crosswalk as their primary project management tool during the data collection process required for certification. The crosswalk can be used to: organize data sources, assign responsible parties for data collection, manage internal workflow, and track progress towards verification. It can be shared with interns as a guide for where to begin the data collection process or used by the project coordinator as a central place to track progress on the application. You can modify this spreadsheet as you see fit, so get creative with your color-coding!

Most local governments begin the data collection process by performing a “crosswalk” exercise comparing local plans, programs, and metrics against the prerequisites and credits in the rating system. This spreadsheet also can be used to calculate a preliminary score and keep track of points during the data collection process.

Download the Crosswalk Tool [here](#)

Most places use the Crosswalk as their primary project management tool. The Crosswalk Tool contains several tabs:

- **Intro:** Provides basic info on the Crosswalk Tool and LEED for Cities certification.
- **Project plan:** Lists milestones and project steps for managing the certification process, from getting organized through announcing your certification.
- **Crosswalk:** Contains the credits and prerequisites, a space to estimate your score, and a section on project management to help you track progress toward certification.

Use the Crosswalk Tool's project plan tab and crosswalk tab to keep track of deadlines and the status of different prerequisites and credits. As you send out data requests, you should assign deadlines and keep track of conversations in the project management details section of the crosswalk tab. Allow more time than you think you need for follow up, answering questions, and QA/QC of the final application.

The Crosswalk Tool can be used to: organize data sources, assign responsible parties for data collection, manage internal workflow, and track progress towards verification.

You can modify the spreadsheet too -- get creative with your color-coding!

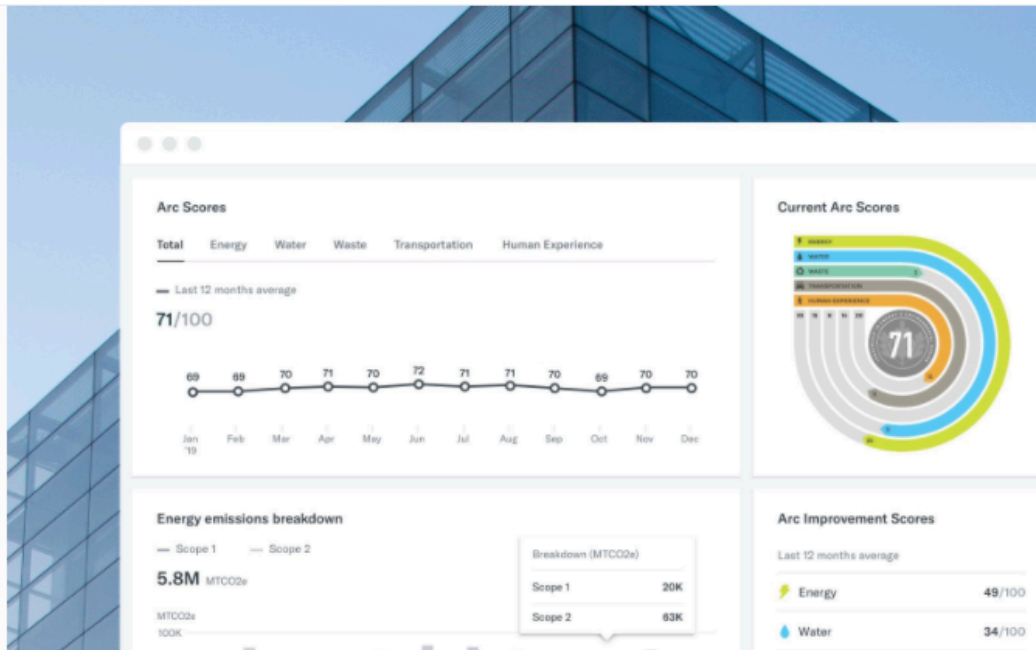
How to use the Crosswalk Tool

- Open the Crosswalk Tool spreadsheet with the reference guide to LEED v4.1 for Existing Cities on hand.
- Go through each credit in the Crosswalk tab one at a time and make a decision as to whether your city is achieving the credit.
- In the 'Submitting?' column of the crosswalk, use the dropdown arrow button to select 'Yes/No/Maybe'. For those that you are confident you will achieve enter the number of points you could achieve into the 'Projected Points Achieved' column.
- As you go along you may also want to fill out as much of the project management columns as you can, like identifying departments or individuals to seek out for data.
- Later, you will schedule meetings or calls with the identified data holders to explain LEED for Cities and go over the relevant sections that partners might be able to assist with.
- Keep track of these meetings and data collection progress by recording notes in the crosswalk.

[Why Arc? ▾](#)[Resources ▾](#)[Pricing](#)[About](#)[Log in](#)[Get Started](#)

Performance is the future of green building.

Arc empowers project teams and recognizes leadership for spaces, buildings, and places around the world.

[Get Started](#)

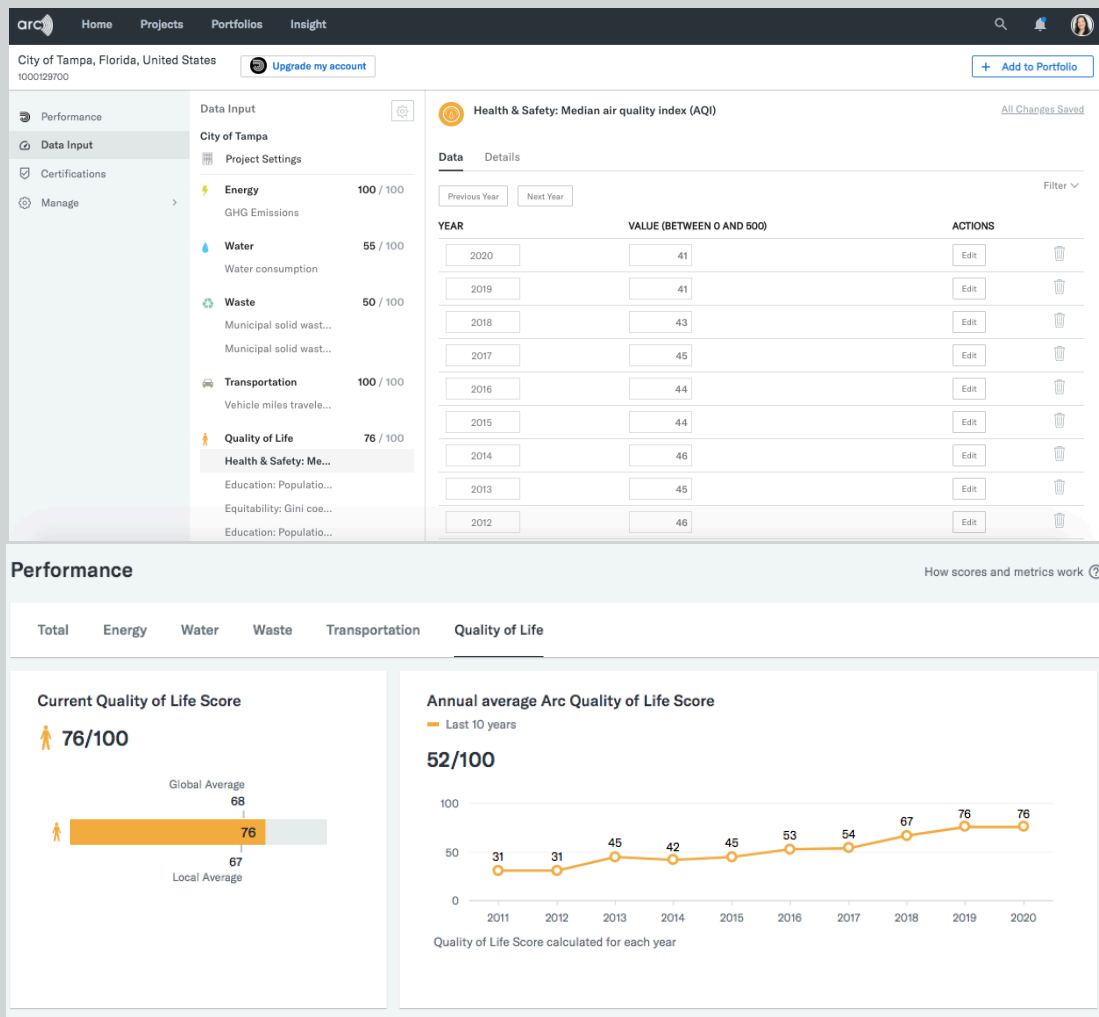
- Log on to Arc at www.arcskoru.com using your USGBC credentials.
- Go to “Manage” to add members to your team. Don’t forget to include LEED for Cities staff members so they can view your dashboard.

Arc Performance Platform

Each local government has an Arc account associated with their USGBC member account.

All projects input data for the rating system's performance prerequisites onto the Arc performance platform.

Once data is input on Arc, a score is generated based on performance relative to peer communities.

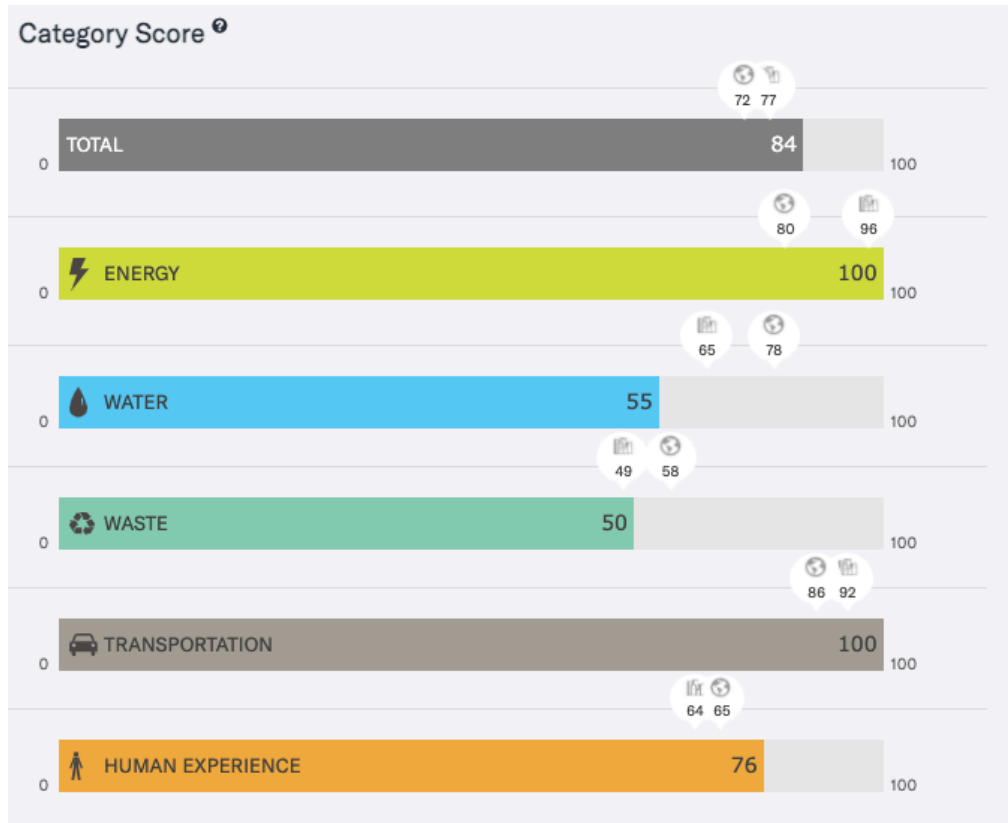


Your Arc Performance Score

After inputting your data, you will see a score out of 100 by category. The score still needs to be converted to points in LEED v4.1 so that you can add it to your Crosswalk Tool. Tables are available on Arc and in the reference guide. See example below.

Table 4. LEED Points for Transportation Performance

Transportation Performance Score in Arc	Points
40	Prerequisite
41 - 50	1
51 - 60	2
61 - 70	3
71 - 80	4
81 - 90	5
91 - 100	6



The Certification Application

LEED for Cities uses an offline application – an Excel workbook – to organize each local governments submission for certification. All documentation is stored within the workbook and companion folder structure. Each local government application folder is provided by GBCI at registration and will be emailed as a set of Dropbox folders. Check in with your LEED for Cities liaison if you haven't received the application.

1000118302 City of Orlando

Overview

Click here to describe this folder and turn it into a Space [Show examples](#)

Create new file

Name	Modified	Members
Preliminary Application	--	12 members
Final Application	--	12 members
Mid Review C...on Response	--	12 members

Create new file

Name

1. INTEGRATI...ROCESS (IP)
2. NATURAL ...OLOGY (NS)
3. TRANSPOR...ND USE (T...)
4. WATER EFF...CIENCY (...)
5. ENERGY AN...SSIONS (...)
6. MATERIALS...URCES (M...)

LEED Worksheets

Create new file

Name

2_LFCv4.1_NS...k_FINAL.xlsx

07 NS Credit ...nce Planning

05 NS Credit ... Restoration

03 NS Prereq... Assessment

Create new file

Name

USGBC Population Calculator - Solid Waste.pdf

MR Prerequisite - Solid...Management_Final.pdf

2018 Orlando Commun... Management Plan.pdf

LEED Narratives and Uploads

LEED Documentation

All required documentation is outlined in the tables at the end of each prerequisite and credit in the LEED v4.1 for Existing Cities reference guide. Typically, this will include forms, narratives, and supporting documentation such as plans and maps.

EN Prerequisite: Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Performance (Cities, 14 Points, Communities, 18 Points)
Intent: To support energy management and move towards a zero-energy and emissions city.

Regulations
Research the annual energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions for this city or community. Document the assumptions for energy demand and emissions population (aging, urban area, and a range of GHG emissions per capita).

Required Documentation

Total annual Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors 2012 Year
☐ Use annual supporting documentation for GHG emissions such as GHG Inventory

Total population of the city 2018 Year

GHG emissions per capita t/capita

☐ Additional documentation, if applicable

Special Circumstances
Describe the circumstances limiting the project team's ability to provide the schedule required in this form. Do so with evidence that additional documentation has been provided. (None, None provided documentation will be considered open to review. (Optional))

1

LEED Forms &
Scorecard
(Excel workbooks)

EN Prerequisite: Power Access, Reliability and Resiliency

This prerequisite applies to:
• Cities
• Communities

Intent
To provide safe, secured, reliable, resilient and equitable access to power.

Required Documentation

Documentation	Credit 1	Credit 2
Documentation from municipal utility with and without the public works and/or energy infrastructure performance (2018) coverage of buildings with power loads.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OUC is the second largest municipal utility in Florida and 14th largest municipal utility in the country providing electric, water, chilled water and/or lighting services to 240,000 customers in Orlando, St. Cloud and parts of unincorporated Orange and Osceola counties. This service coverage includes all of the greater Orlando metropolitan area with supplemental coverage offered from Progress Energy and Florida Power and Light Utilities.

OUC Facts and Facilities
<https://www.ouc.com/about-ouc/facts-facilities>
OUC Service Territory Map
<https://www.ouc.com/about-ouc/customer-support/documents/view-a-map-of-ouc-s-service-area.pdf?document=Progress%20Energy%20Service%20Territory%20Map>
Progress Energy Service Territory Map
<https://www.fpl.com/about-ouc/customer-support/documents/view-a-map-of-fpl-s-service-area.pdf?document=Florida%20Power%20and%20Light%20Service%20Territory%20Map>
Florida Power and Light Service Territory Map
<https://www.fpl.com/about-ouc/customer-support/documents/view-a-map-of-fpl-s-service-area.pdf?document=Florida%20Power%20and%20Light%20Service%20Territory%20Map>

Commitment and narrative of roadmap for achieving... or at the time of LEED

2

LEED Narratives
(Word documents)

Create new file +

Name +	Type +
OUC Reliability_2017.pdf	Document
Orlando Facilities with ...ncy Backup Power.pdf	Document
EN Prerequisite - Power and Resiliency.Final.pdf	Document

3

Supporting
documents &
Uploads

Pro Tips ✓

- Get early buy-in and support from leadership and communicate the importance of the certification effort to departments and agencies.
- Develop a timeline for data collection and set realistic milestones. When it's time, put deadlines on all internal data requests to ensure timely delivery of information.
- Use the power of Google! You will be surprised what data you can find about your community using a search engine.
- There are 10 points available for Innovation and Regional Priority – keep a list of exemplary work along the way that might be a good fit!



4. Certification Process

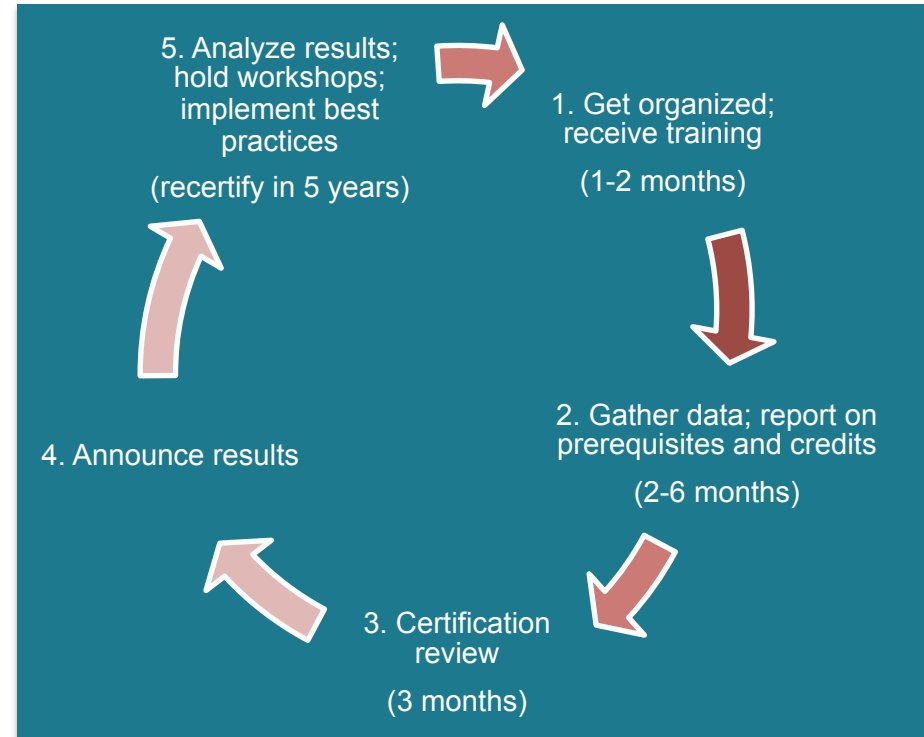
This section will cover:

- The certification timeline
- What to expect in the two-stage review of an organized application

Certification Timeline

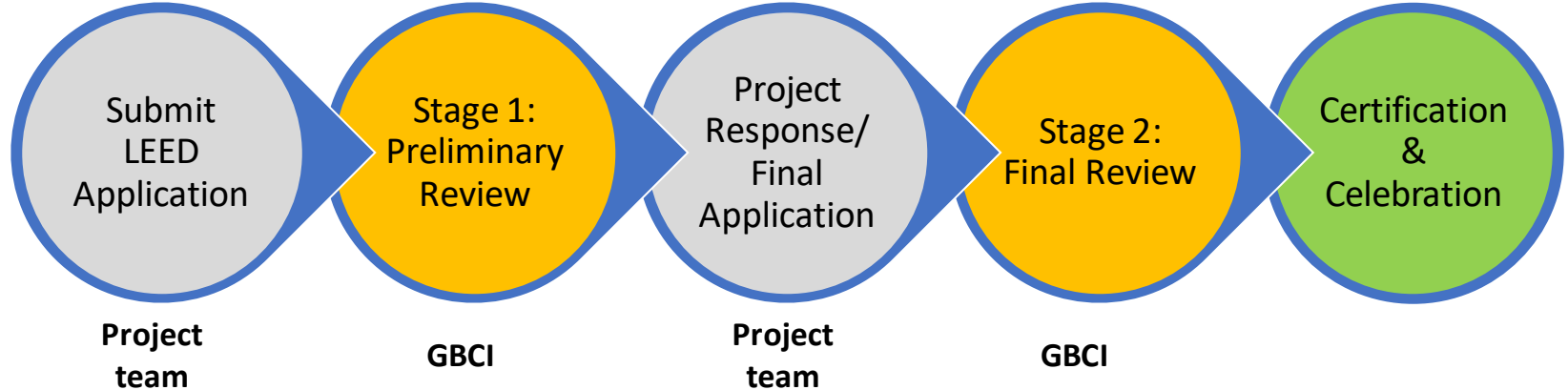
On average, the certification process takes a local government about nine to twelve months from start to finish. In general, a project team spends 1-2 months getting organized and 2-6 months on data collection if they are working on a part-time basis. The time needed to complete data collection for certification varies greatly depending on the following factors:

- Staff capacity;
- Availability and quality of interns;
- Data availability and tracking practices within the jurisdiction;
- The number of employees within the local government and extent of existing internal and external relationships; and
- The certification level desired.



LEED Certification Review:

Two stage process





The certification review is a two-stage process. The preliminary review will assess the application and determine which credits and prerequisites are awarded and which are denied or pending. For items that are not awarded, the reviewers will provide a detailed response on what is needed for the item to be awarded. During the response period, projects can develop these responses and submit for a final review. At the conclusion, a certification is awarded.

Preliminary Review:

PRELIM REVIEW REPORT

LEED v4.1 Cities: Existing

Name: **City of**

CREDIT DETAILS

Integrative Process

Integrative Planning and Design Process Under Review

POSSIBLE POINTS: 1
 ATTAINED: 1, DEMERIT: 0, REMAINS: 0, AWARDED: 1
0/10/2008 CREDIT HAS PRELIMINARY REVIEW

Attained:

Green Building Policy and Incentives Under Review

POSSIBLE POINTS: 4
 ATTAINED: 4, DEMERIT: 0, REMAINS: 0, AWARDED: 1
0/10/2008 CREDIT HAS PRELIMINARY REVIEW

Option 1: Buildings owned and/or operated by the local government or development authority:

1. It is unclear from the supporting documentation whether the facilities (CDMs) mentioned as "green" are rated by LEED, SDG or an equivalent green building rating system. As per the City of Ontario's website, only seven LEED rated buildings have been constructed since 2007.

Provide revised supporting documentation demonstrating that the facilities mentioned are rated by LEED, SDG or an equivalent green building rating system.

Option 2: Green Building Policy and Incentives:

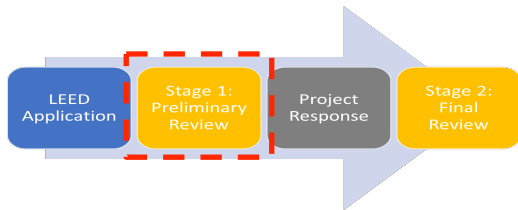
1. It is noted that an incentive of reduction of system development charge has been provided. However minimum of two incentives for LEED or an equivalent green building rating system have to be provided to meet the requirements of this option.

Provide details of one more incentive for LEED or equivalent green building rating system available to buildings in the city.

Option 3:

1. It is unclear from the supporting documentation how the buildings owned and/or operated by the city government track and report their annual energy data.

Provide documentation demonstrating that the at least 50% of buildings (equal to or above 5000 sq. ft.) owned and/or operated by the city government are collecting and reporting the annual energy data.



Preliminary Review:

Anticipated

Integrative Planning and Design Process

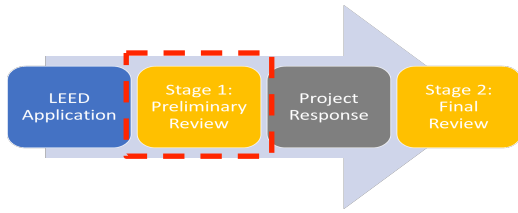
Under Review

POSSIBLE POINTS: 1

ATTEMPTED: 1, DENIED: 0, PENDING: 0, AWARDED: 1

▲ 10/04/2019 **EXISTING PRELIMINARY REVIEW**

Anticipated



Preliminary Review:

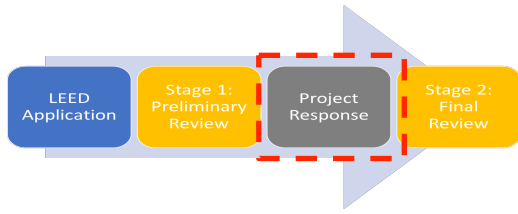
Pending

1. Although URLs have been provided for the Watershed Resources Plan, the “https” website provided for the Watershed Plan could not be accessed in the public domain.

Please ensure that all links provided are available in the public domain or provide a copy of the documentation from the link for review.

Outlines
issue

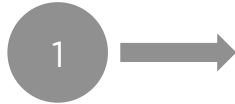
Provides
action item



Project Response

1. In the 2016 emissions per year per capita calculations, it is unclear how the total annual emissions figure of 636823 tons was arrived at. The pie chart graphic referenced as supporting documentation for the total emissions cannot be found.

Ensure that the relevant documentation is provided.



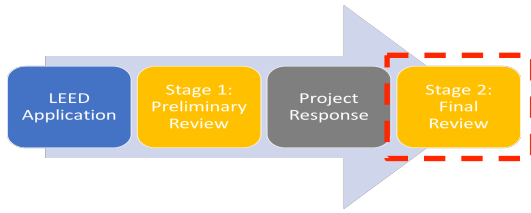
Response:

Document “**2016 Emissions.pdf**” has been uploaded. **Refer to pg.8** for details.



AND

Upload all required documents to Dropbox folder “Final Application”



Final Review:

Awarded

The additional documentation explains the data sources and accounting methodologies used to determine the VMT per vehicle per person.

Credit is awarded.

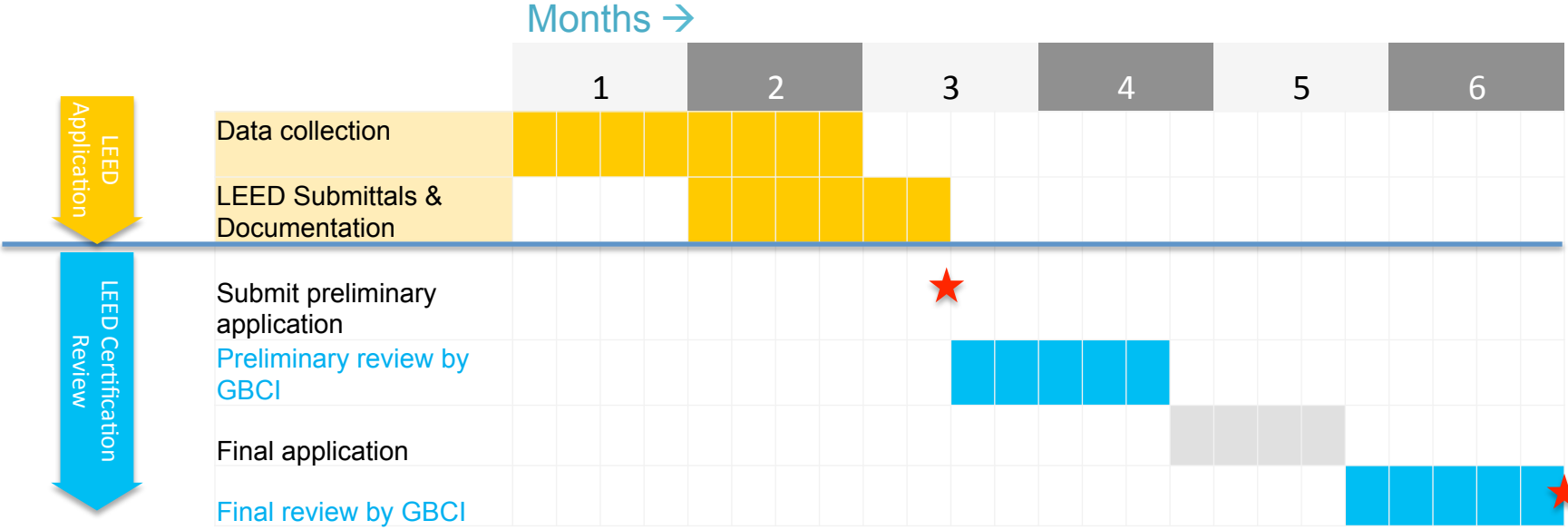
Final Review

Mid-Review Clarification

Subject: Additional Clarification Needed for
1000123456 Leedsville Final Review

Hello Project Team,
Your project 1000123456 Leedsville is currently under Final Review, and we would like to provide your team with an additional opportunity to provide minor clarifications on the following issues.

Certification Process





Pro Tip ✓

Reviewers can't read your mind 😊

Documentation is the only way for reviewers to understand the project and credit compliance

5. Post-Certification

This section will cover:

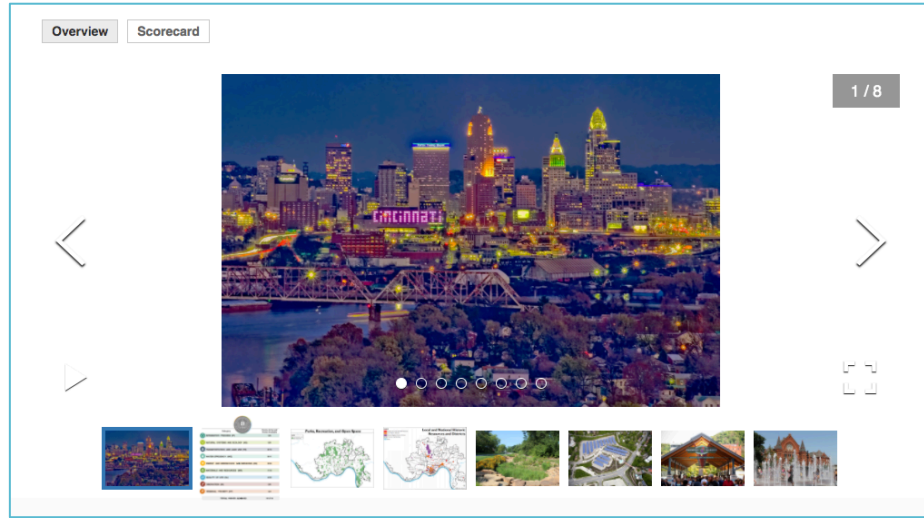
- Marketing and PR Support
- Ways that local governments are using their certification results

Marketing and PR Support

At certification, you will receive your final certification report from GBCI. Then, you will receive an email from the LEED for Cities team with a series of next steps. LEED for Cities staff will coordinate several marketing and PR related requests, including your official LEED certificate, logos for your official certification level, branding guidelines, template press releases and related materials. We'll convene a call with your public information officer and staff team to discuss announcement plans and next steps.



Each certified local government is featured on the LEED Project Directory and receives a case study detailing their achievements post-certification.



Market briefs

Cincinnati Case Study - LEED v4.1 Existing Cities

LEED Cities: Existing v4.1
Cincinnati, Ohio



PROJECT DETAILS

Certified on December 16, 2016
Certification level: Silver

Cincinnati joined LEED Cities to create a plan and action to provide sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities for the city. By offering the city, LEED Cities can be integrated as a central system in Cincinnati's planning and development efforts to create the most sustainable future.

"Through the leadership of our sustainability leader and members, the Green Cincinnati Plan, after energy programs and investments to create a more resilient and sustainable building and water future. Following the 2010 LEED certification process, we have seen our efforts and working and performance of our sustainable plan and vision for the future."

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

- 1. Increase the number of LEED certified buildings in the city and sector to provide sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities for the city. The city will also create a plan and action to create a more resilient and sustainable building and water future. Following the 2010 LEED certification process, we have seen our efforts and working and performance of our sustainable plan and vision for the future.
- 2. Increase the number of LEED certified buildings in the city and sector to provide sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities for the city. The city will also create a plan and action to create a more resilient and sustainable building and water future. Following the 2010 LEED certification process, we have seen our efforts and working and performance of our sustainable plan and vision for the future.

SNAPSHOT

Location	USA
Population	60,457 (2016 Census)
Population	300,000 (2016)
Demographics	62.3% White, 42.7% Black or African American, 10% Other
Leadership	Mayor John Cranley
Key Stakeholders and Partners	Office of Sustainable and Resilient Greater Cincinnati Urban Region Department of Public Services

DOWNLOAD

What do local governments do with their results?

- Strengthen existing plans and policies
- Enhance and guide future planning processes
- Identify and implement high impact best practices
- Direct resources to the greatest areas of need
- Increase community buy-in for sustainability efforts
- Create opportunities for collaboration
- Increase transparency and accountability to investors, funders and constituents
- Attract grants, business development and economic activity
- Demonstrate measurable sustainability progress and national and global leadership
- Communicate and brand sustainability
- Commit to continuous improvement





#LEED #TransformingTampa

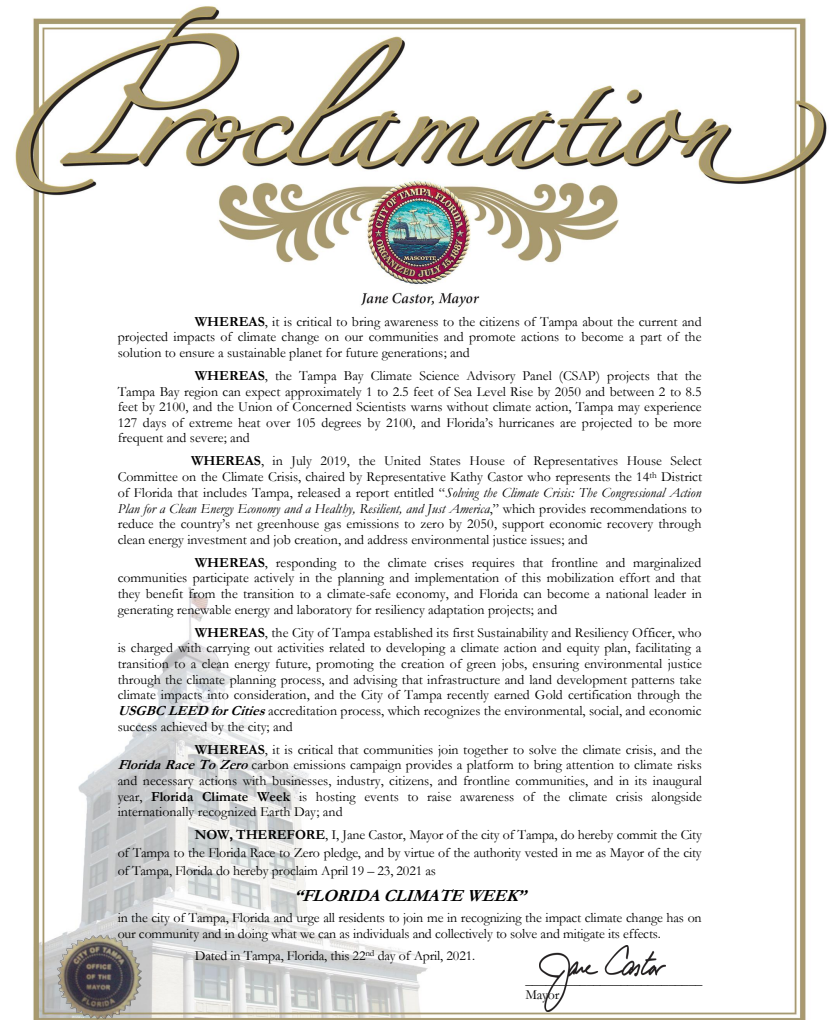
City Of Tampa Gold LEED Certification

View the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3XwOQ8juaw>

View the proclamation:

https://www.tampa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamation/2021/20210419_Florida_Climate_Week.pdf



LEED cities are using data to drive decision making on climate, equity, health and sustainability.

Census Tract 102, Block Group 5

Lake Eola Heights
Demographic Profile Based on 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Population: 1143

Male: 55.6%

Female: 44.4%

Age:

Median age: 34.8

18 years and over: 97.7%

65 years and over: 10.5%

Race:

White: 77.1%

Black or African American: 7.9%

American Indian and Alaska Native: 0.0%

Asian: 4.0%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 3.8%

Other: 7.3%

Two or more races: 0.0%

Hispanic or Latino (of any race): 17.0%

Veteran Status:

Veterans: 8.1%

Language Spoken at Home:

Population 5 years or over: 567

English: 86.9%

Spanish: 7.8%

Other Indo-European Languages: 0.0%

Asian and Pacific Island languages: 5.3%

Other languages: 0.0%

School Enrollment:

Population 3 years and over enrolled in school: 75

Public nursery school, preschool: 0.0%

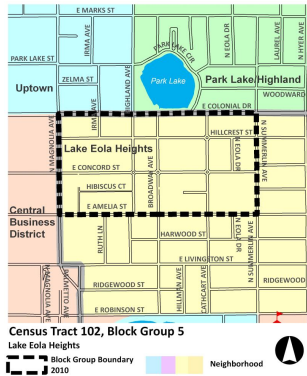
Private nursery school, preschool: 0.0%

Public kindergarten through high school: 34.7%

Private kindergarten through high school: 0.0%

Public college or graduate school: 48.0%

Private college or graduate school: 17.3%



Educational Attainment:

Population 25 years or over: 1010

High school graduate or higher: 97.4%

College graduate or higher: 52.0%

Total Households: 567

Households with child under 18: 3.0%

Householder living alone: 46.2%

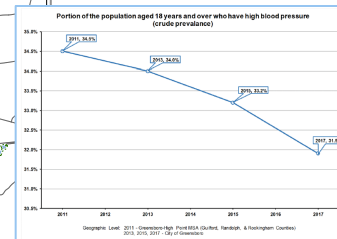
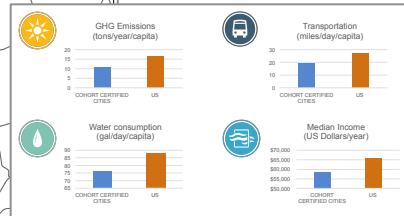
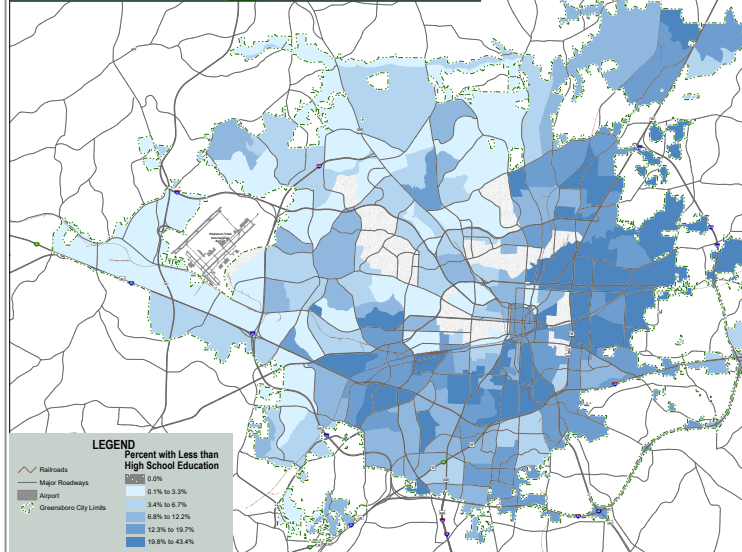
Other Households: 50.8%

Median Household Income: \$65,402

Households below poverty: 5.3%

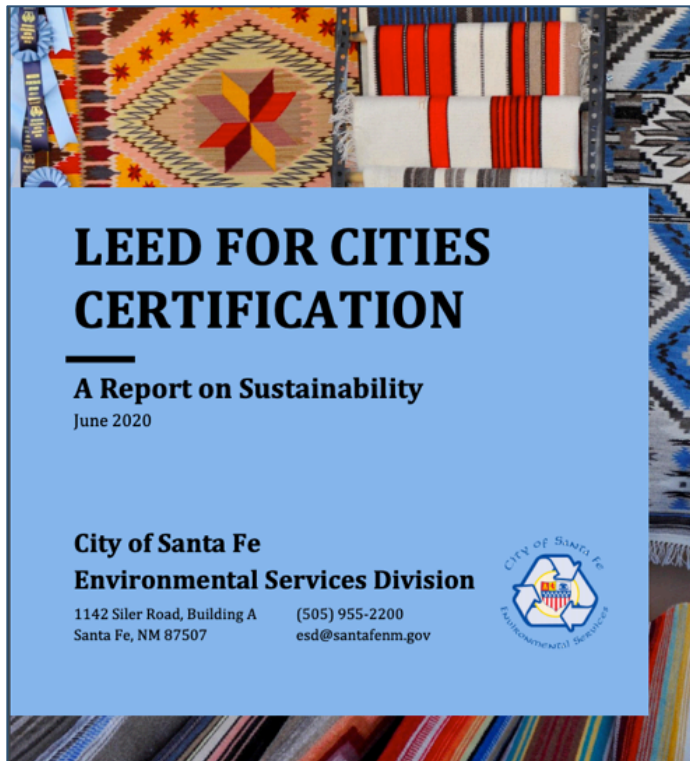
Quality of Life (QL) - Demographic Assessment, Map 15

City of Greensboro
2023 LEED for Cities and Communities Goal Program
Demographic Indicator: Percent with Less than High School Education by Census Block Group



Academic Year Graduated	2012-2013			2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017		
	Entering 9th Graders	Graduating	Percent	Entering 9th Graders	Graduating	Percent	Entering 9th Graders	Graduating	Percent	Entering 9th Graders	Graduating	Percent	Entering 9th Graders	Graduating	Percent
All Students	5,771	4,976	86.22%	5,763	5,102	88.53%	5,828	5,204	89.29%	5,948	5,320	89.44%	5,943	5,334	89.75%
Male	2,917	2,398	82.21%	2,876	2,482	86.30%	2,950	2,555	86.61%	2,997	2,627	87.65%	3,024	2,644	87.43%
Female	2,854	2,578	90.33%	2,887	2,620	90.75%	2,878	2,649	92.04%	2,951	2,693	91.26%	2,919	2,690	92.15%
American Indian	38	30	78.95%	38	30	78.95%	36	31	86.11%	33	30	90.91%	33	29	87.88%
Asian	369	308	83.47%	380	316	83.16%	389	344	88.43%	367	331	90.19%	340	366	93.85%
Black	2,394	2,000	83.54%	2,383	2,072	86.95%	2,360	2,078	88.05%	2,388	2,099	87.90%	2,354	2,155	87.82%
Hispanic	468	380	81.20%	458	478	104.36%	540	457	84.63%	620	497	80.16%	636	529	83.18%
Two or More Races	189	150	79.37%	183	155	84.70%	189	149	78.84%	196	180	91.84%	236	214	90.68%
White	2,306	2,103	91.20%	2,328	2,137	91.80%	2,295	2,127	92.68%	2,325	2,171	93.38%	2,188	2,036	93.05%

LEED cities are utilizing certification results to identify gaps, prioritize investment and plan for the future.



RatingsDirect®

Summary:

Charles County, Maryland; General Obligation

Primary Credit Analyst:

Nora G Wittstruck, New York (1) 212-438-8589; nora.wittstruck@spglobal.com

Secondary Contact:

Krystal Tena, New York + 1 (212) 438-1628; krystal.tena@spglobal.com

Rationale

S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AAA' long-term rating to Charles County, Md.'s \$58 million general obligation (GO) consolidated public improvement bonds of 2019. At the same time, we affirmed our 'AAA' long-term rating on the county's GO debt outstanding. The outlook is stable.

Very strong management

We believe the management team adheres to its policies and procedures in a meaningful way, including regularly monitoring its compliance with stated metrics.

We view the county's proactive and multipronged approach to climate change as indicative of the management team's overall long-term planning strategy. The county has identified ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve the county's sustainability efforts, including eventually transitioning to powering county facilities with solar energy and working with the University of Maryland to create a resiliency plan to model the effects of sea-level rise on the location of county assets. The county is also partnering with the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy to credential local government officials; more than 20 county staff are enrolled.

Pro Tip ✓ Communicate results to your CFO or Finance Director.

- Your certification results should be included in reports to bond agencies, banks, community foundations and other investors.
- In the future, LEED for Cities certification will be seen as an incentive to get access to financing aligned with climate, sustainability and social goals.
- We also envision that certified projects will have access to low interest bonds for projects prioritized through the certification process; see benefits of third party verification to their municipal bond rating overall; and yield lower interest rates for project.

Leadership Testimonials



"All of us know how much sustainability means to Santa Fe and to our way of life...[LEED certification] speaks volumes about our community and the values we hold dear," Mayor Alan Webber, City of Santa Fe, NM.



"These insights will help us as we prioritize our efforts to enhance the long term health of the planet and improve our quality of life for residents," Mayor Nancy Vaughn, City of Greensboro, NC.

"Cincinnati has worked hard to be a sustainability leader and innovator...Obtaining the LEED for Cities certification provides proof that our efforts are working and guidance about where our future projects will have the most impact," Mayor John Cranley, City of Cincinnati, OH.

"We've been through a lot this year with the global pandemic...I'm glad folks remember the long-game, which is very much about green building and sustainability," Mayor Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque, NM.



"This year, Costa Mesa took major efforts forward on our sustainability journey and it's wonderful to see our city being recognized on a national scale for its leadership," Mayor Katrina Foley, City of Costa Mesa, CA.

"The environmental challenges facing South Florida—and the world—are complex, multifaceted, and do not recognize political boundaries. Palm Beach County has long been a strong partner with local stakeholders on all aspects of climate change and sustainability, and this certification reflects that investment and continued commitment in our regional collaboration and a multi-pronged response to the issues we face," Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss, Palm Beach County, FL.





For more information:

Email cities@usgbc.org

Visit us at www.usgbc.org!