



City of Miami, FL

2025 LEED for Cities Certification Cohort

A pillar of USGBC's Local Government Leadership Program in partnership with Bank of America

LEED v4.1 Cities and Communities: Existing Cities

The leading global rating system and certification program that transforms cities into more sustainable, equitable and resilient places that enable rapid adoption of global climate action.

LEED Cities drive market transformation by institutionalizing sustainability at the city scale encouraging adoption of policies and regulations that support sustainability, accelerating the pace of climate action and transformative change around the world.



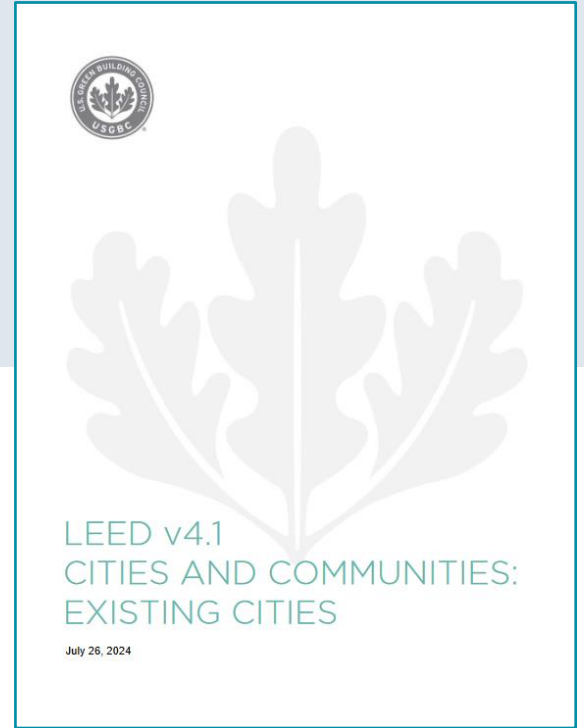


**LEED for Cities goes
beyond buildings to
measure sustainability at
the jurisdictional scale.**

A comprehensive management framework for community-wide sustainability.

LEED for Cities provides local governments a roadmap for sustainability, a clear way to define it, and how to measure it.

Access the
guide:



LEED v4.1 Cities and Communities: Existing Cities rating system

| Requirements | Integrative Process | Natural Systems | Transportation & Land Use | Water Efficiency | Energy & Emissions | Materials & Resources | Quality of Life |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Prerequisites performance-based | -- | -- | Transportation Performance | Water Performance | Energy & GHG Emissions Performance | Waste Performance | Quality of Life Performance |
| Prerequisites base conditions | -- | Ecosystem Assessment | -- | Water Access & Quality | Power Access, Reliability & Resiliency | Solid Waste Management | Demographic & Social Equity Assessment |
| Credits | Integrated Planning & Leadership | Green Spaces | Compact, Mixed Use & Transit Oriented Development | Integrated Water Management | Energy Efficiency | Special Waste Streams Management | Social Services & Infrastructure |
| | Green Building Policy & Incentives | Natural Resources Conservation & Restoration | Safe Multimodal Accessibility | Stormwater Management | Renewable Energy | Responsible Procurement | Economic Growth & Opportunity |
| | | Light Pollution Reduction | Clean Transportation | Smart Water Systems | Net Zero Carbon & Climate Action | Material Recovery | Environmental Justice |
| | | Resilience Planning | Mobility Management | | Grid Harmonization | Smart Waste Management Systems | Housing & Transportation Affordability |
| | | | Priority Sites | | | | Public Health |
| | | | | | | | Educational Opportunity & Attainment |
| | | | | | | | Civil & Human Rights |

Certification provides a baseline assessment of local government performance in sustainability and catalyzes action.



LEED-certified local governments leverage global standards and best practices to inform the implementation of community-wide action plans, plan and prioritize needs in municipal budgeting and capital improvement processes and are well-positioned to take advantage of funding opportunities.

Local Government Leadership Program

Our approach balances present day needs with the goals of the future.

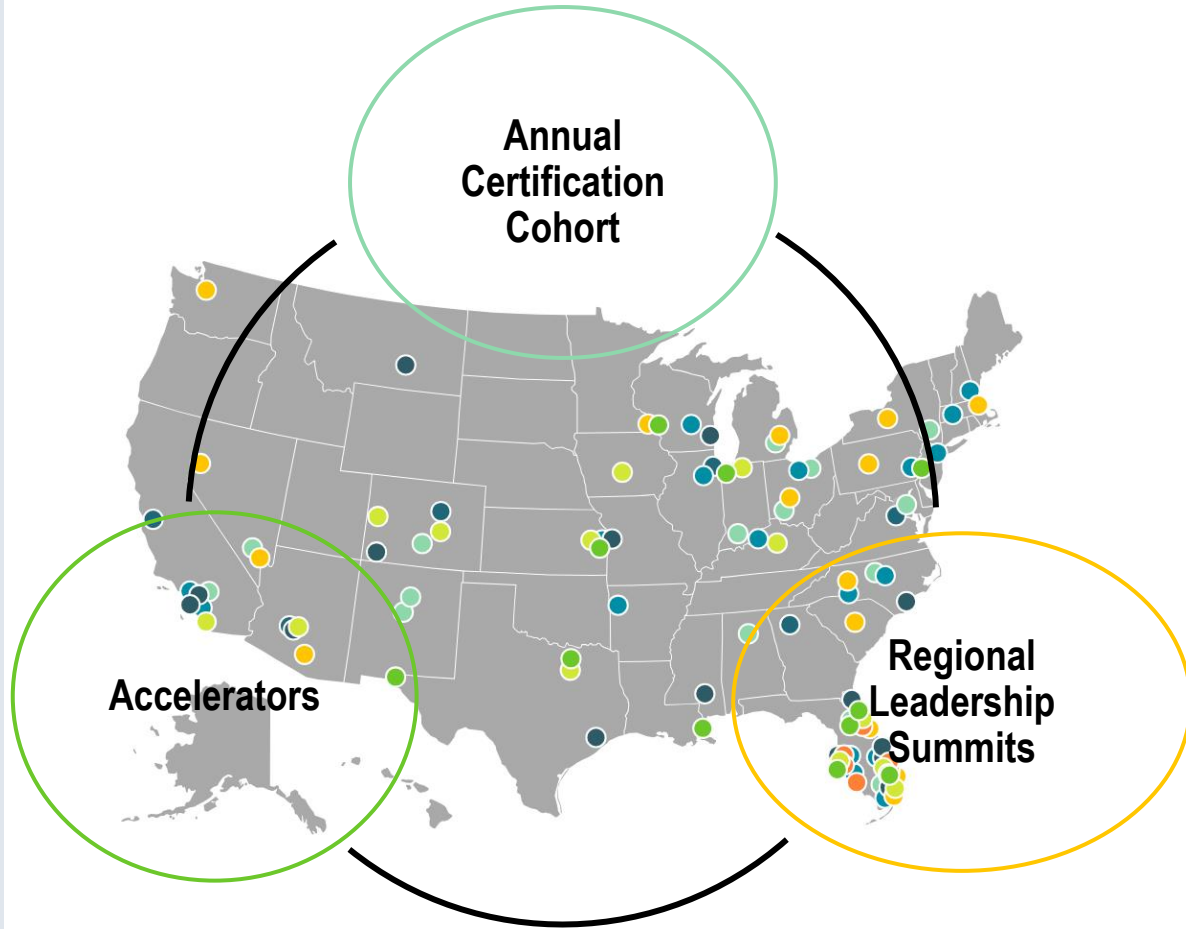


Meaningfully engage with local governments while understanding the unique opportunities and challenges they face.

Provide support through resource sharing, tools, education, 1:1 technical assistance, and access to subject matter experts.

Foster collaboration and innovation within our trusted peer to peer learning community of local government leaders throughout the nation.

**A variety of
entry points
across the
spectrum of
capacity and
level of
readiness.**



National Leadership Cohort Map

Local Government Leadership Program Offerings



Annual Certification Cohort for local governments ready to certify in LEED for Cities.



Regional Leadership Summits deepen engagement with local governments on green building and sustainable development topics.



Short-term **Accelerators** on a range of topics where we deliver targeted solutions and support in a trusted learning community.

Annual Certification Cohort



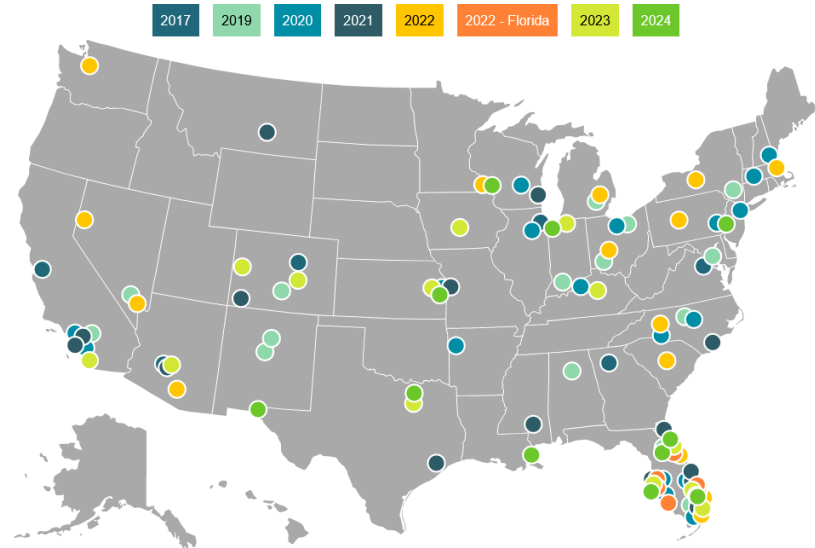
USGBC, with support from Bank of America, has provided direct support to more than **100 US local governments**, representing **40+ million people**, through the LEED for Cities Certification Cohort because we believe leadership in adoption of climate action begins with local governments.

Bank of America has invested **\$3.4 million** to date and supported **5 aspiring sustainability and equity professionals** through fellowships and mentorships because we are committed to workforce development in this unique sector.



Cohort participants as of 2024

- Abington Township, PA
- Albuquerque, NM
- Amesbury, MA
- Atlanta, GA
- Atlantic Beach, FL
- Baltimore, MD
- Billings, MT
- Birmingham, AL
- Bloomington, IN
- Boca Raton, FL
- Cape Canaveral, FL
- Carrollton, TX
- Charlotte, NC
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Claremont, CA
- Cleveland, OH
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Columbia, SC
- Coral Gables, FL
- Coral Springs, FL
- Costa Mesa, CA
- Cutler Bay, FL
- Davidson, NC
- Dayton, OH
- Des Moines, IA
- Durango, CO
- El Paso, TX
- Fayetteville, AR
- Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Gainesville, FL
- Gary, IN
- Grand Junction, CO
- Greensboro, NC
- Hattiesburg, MS
- Henderson, NV
- Houston, TX
- Issaquah, WA
- Ithaca, NY
- Jacksonville, FL
- Johnson County, KS
- Jupiter Inlet Colony, FL
- Kane County, IL
- Kansas City, MO
- La Crescent, MN
- La Crosse, WI
- Lantana, FL
- Largo, FL
- Las Vegas, NV
- Lawrence, KS
- Lexington, KY
- Long Beach, CA
- Louisville, KY
- Miami Beach, FL
- Miami, FL
- Miami-Dade County, FL
- Middleton, WI
- Nashua, NH
- Newark, NJ
- New Orleans, LA
- Northampton, MA
- North Miami, FL
- Oakland County, MI
- Orange County, FL
- Orange County, NC
- Orange County, NY
- Orlando, FL
- Overland Park, KS
- Palm Beach County, FL
- Palm Beach, FL
- Philadelphia, PA
- Phoenix, AZ
- Pinellas County, FL
- Plano, TX
- Pueblo County, CO
- Racine, WI
- Rancho Cucamonga, CA
- Reno, NV
- Royal Oak, MI
- San Diego, CA
- San Diego County, CA
- San Jose, CA
- Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Monica, CA
- Sarasota, FL
- Scottsdale, AZ
- Shaker Heights, OH
- South Bend, IN
- State College, PA
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Tampa, FL
- Tempe, AZ
- Tucson, AZ
- Washington, DC
- West Palm Beach, FL



National Leadership Cohort Map

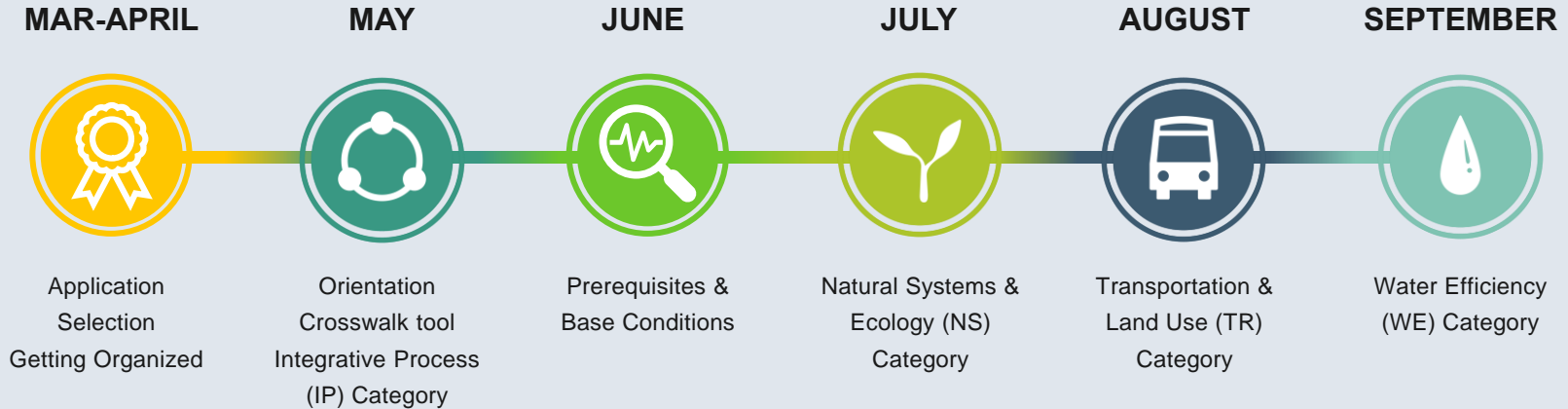


Annual Certification Cohort

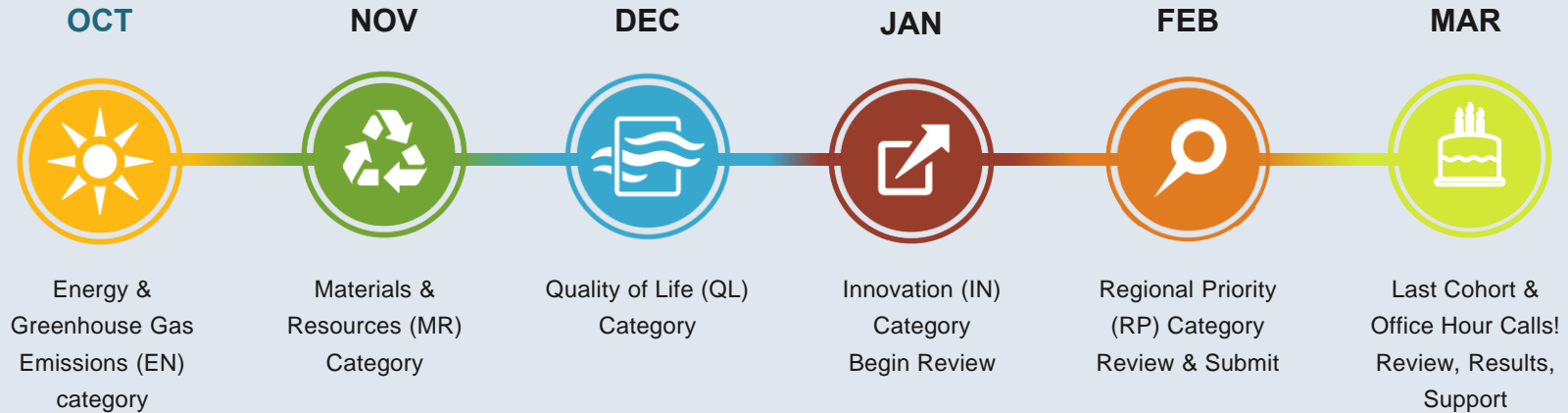
| Application & Program Year | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dec. 1, 2024 | Application Opens |
| Feb. 14, 2025 | Application Deadline |
| Feb. 28, 2025 | Decisions Announced |
| Apr. 1, 2025 | Program Commences |
| Apr. 30 & May 1, 2025 | Virtual Cohort Orientation |
| Mar. 31, 2026 | Program Graduation |

2025 Program Year Overview

We build out content month by month, focusing on one category at a time.




2025 Program Year Overview



Customized Pathways to Certification

We build out project management plans to align with your strategic goals and timelines.




2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program

This document is intended to provide a high-level overview of the major dates and project milestones to be accomplished over the program year. This is a living document and as events and cohort speakers are confirmed more information will be added to the document. Please bookmark and check frequently!

| March | |
|---|--|
| Key Dates/Milestones | Program Management |
| March 8th - Acceptance letters sent | Logistical Steps <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sign & submit your program agreement.2. Create a usgbc.org account.3. Team Leads - login to leedonline and register your project.4. Team Leads - login to arc.gbci.org, add core team members and Mackenzie (Fellow) and David (Client Solutions). Begin building out Core Team Develop and share an internal memo or "all hands-on deck" memo from Leadership/Mayor to make staff aware of the initiative and their involvement |
| April | |
| Key Dates/Milestones | Project Management |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 1st - Program year begins.• Earth Day press release if possible• 2024 Release published 4/30/2024 | Complete Logistical steps outlined above Explore program tools and resources: https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/leed-for-cities-communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Download existing guide and Crosswalk Tool 1:1 call with LEED for Cities team during 2 nd and 3 rd week of April Develop and share an internal memo to make staff aware of the initiative and their involvement. Consider hiring an intern for summer or fall, continue building internal capacity. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft intern PD is in the 2024 Resources Dropbox folder. |
| May | |
| Key Dates/Milestones | Project Management |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 1 & 2: Orientation May 1 & 2• Monthly Cohort Call: Wed, May 15, 12pm CDT/1pm EDT | Access 2024 LEED for Cities Leadership Program Resources Dropbox Begin Crosswalk Tool right after Orientation. |



2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW


Greenbuild Certification Track: Standard

LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program

This document is intended to provide a high-level overview of the major dates and project milestones to be accomplished over the program year with the goal of certifying by Greenbuild held from Nov. 12-15, 2024 in Philadelphia and using the Standard Review track. This is a living document and as events and cohort speakers are confirmed more information will be added to the document. Please bookmark and check frequently!

Standard Prelim Review: 9am ET, Thurs. July 25, 2024, review returned by Aug. 29.
Standard Final Review: 9am ET, Fri. Sept. 6, 2024, review returned by Oct. 11.
<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/what-you-need-know-achieve-leed-certification-2024-and-early-2025>

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2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Certification Track: Sept 20. Submission

City of Coral Springs, FL

LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program

This document is intended to provide a high-level overview of the major dates and project milestones to be accomplished over the program year with the goal of submitting for Preliminary Review on or around Sept. 20, 2024, in order to meet budgetary deadlines for the City of Coral Springs, FL. This is a living document and as events and cohort speakers are confirmed more information will be added to the document. Please bookmark and check frequently!

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|---|--|
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Our program reduces barriers to certification.

Support designed by and for Local Governments.

- ▶ Free USGBC Silver level membership.
- ▶ Access to USGBC's Green Building Policy and Advocacy support.
- ▶ Access to education tailored to Local Governments, guidebooks, and customized tools that make it easier to reach your goals.
- ▶ Access to USGBC staff liaison and subject matter experts.
- ▶ Monthly cohort calls and optional technical assistance office hours.
- ▶ Customized certification pathways based on needs & goals of the local government.
- ▶ Public relations and marketing assistance.
- ▶ Professional Development so staff feel continuously supported.
- ▶ Support from our local government community from across the nation.

Building Capacity

The Cohort's staff liaison works with program participants to identify gaps, build customized pathways to certification, troubleshoot issues during data collection, share and develop relevant resources, and serves as an external staff support to local governments.

“We could not have reached our certification goal and deadline without the support of USGBC’s staff. They worked so closely with us, we felt as though they were our co-workers.”

-Olivia Garcia, City of Philadelphia



2024 Leadership Summit | Issaquah, WA



USGBC
MEMBER

USGBC Silver Membership

TAILORED BENEFITS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Unlimited access to members-only resources for *all* employees in the local government.
- Discounts on professional LEED credentialing materials, including study guides and exam fees.
- 30 hours towards our Course Catalogue platform.
- Savings on LEED project registration and certification.
- Discounts on select partner programs, including SEA, SITES, and TRUE.
- Membership pricing for Greenbuild tickets and savings on expo space.
- Participation and eligibility to participate in LEED ballots, committees, and working groups such as the Location & Planning, Energy & Atmosphere, and the Sustainable Sites Technical Advisory Groups.

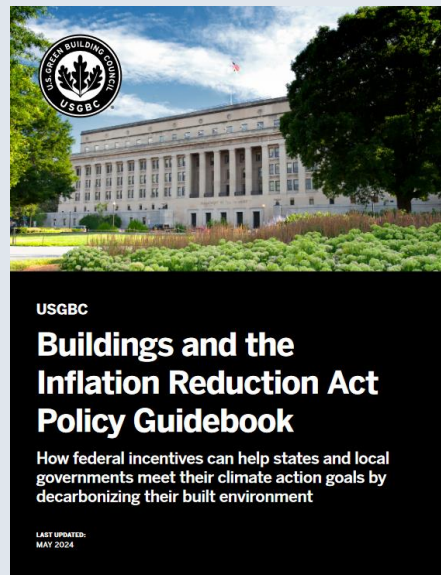
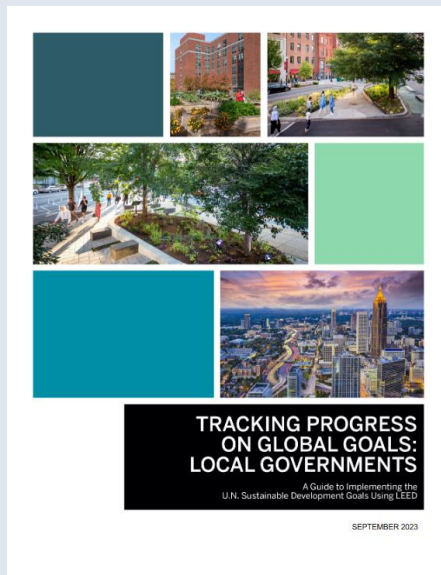
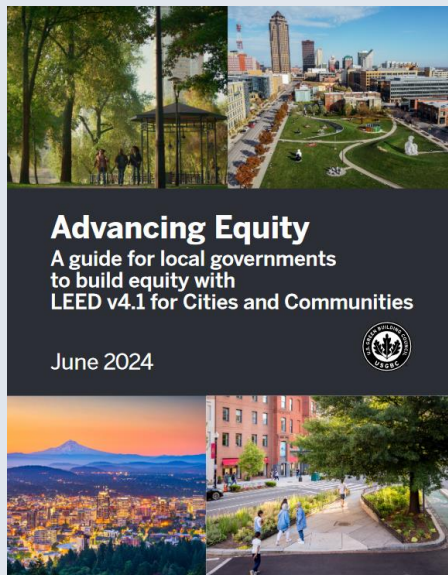
Our Peer-to-Peer Learning Community

Our cohort model offers participants the ability to collaborate and innovate alongside a community of sustainability professionals working to advance climate goals in local governments across the nation varying in population size, density and staff capacity.

The cohort often serves as an external department for participants to build community, capacity, and professional support to help advance local government goals.



Curated Tools for Local Governments



City Building Policy Self-Assessment

The new City Building Policy Self-Assessment is an easy-to-use checklist crafted for local government leaders, staff, and advocates. Stakeholders can use the assessment to take stock of their jurisdiction's existing green building policies and consider new incentives or requirements.

This document includes the full Self-Assessment (4 pages) and a Summary Self-Assessment (1 page).

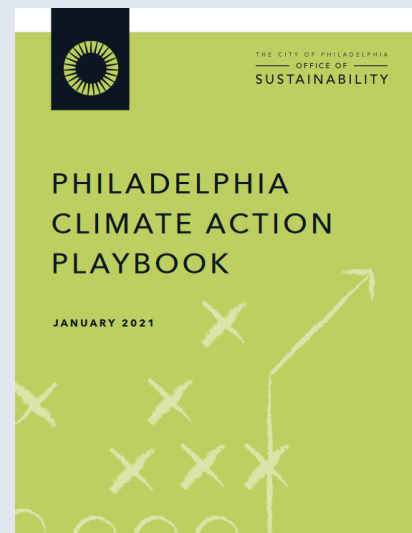
To reach out with any questions, email publicpolicies@usgbc.org. Visit our website (www.usgbc.org) for more information.



We build out [resources and tools](#) as we learn what local governments need most.

Results Catalyze Action

Participants use certification results and gap analysis to inform implementation and advance progress.



Celebrating certification rewards progress, collaboration and builds momentum.



City of Tempe, AZ | Certified Gold



City of Cape Canaveral, FL | Certified Silver



Orange County, FL | Certified Gold



Town of Davidson, NC | Certified Silver



City of Baltimore, MD | Certified Gold



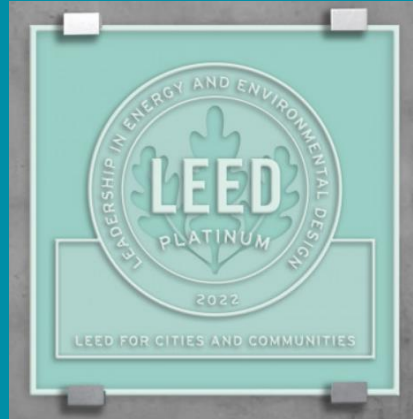
Miami-Dade County, FL | Certified Gold

USGBC provides PR and marketing support at certification.




U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL®
PUBLIC RELATIONS
GUIDELINES FOR LEED CERTIFIED CITIES
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UPDATED 2024



A customized case study tied to the USGBC's project directory to showcase your leadership.



U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

LEED FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: EXISTING CITIES

City of Issaquah, Washington

Certified on: May 16, 2023 | Certification Level: Gold

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

- Develop and implement comprehensive strategies and vulnerability assessments to locally address both existing and future natural and man-made hazards
- Local and regional transportation networks connecting the City of Issaquah to nearby cities, limiting vehicle miles travelled
- Prioritize addressing climate change through long-term, collaborative action at multiple levels of government through various regional partnerships
- Commitment to creating affordable and accessible energy alternatives through partnerships and incentive programs especially for wind and solar energy

SNAPSHOT*

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| COUNTRY: | USA |
| PROJECT AREA: | 7,296 acres 30 sq. km |
| POPULATION: | 40,051 (2022) |
| DEMOGRAPHICS: | 63.1% White; 25.5% Asian; 7.6% Hispanic or Latino; 5.8% Two or More Races; 2.2% Other. Over 30% speak a language other than English at home. |
| LEADERSHIP: | Mayor Mary Lou Pauly |
| KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS: | City of Issaquah Departments of Community Planning & Development, Sustainability, Parks & Community Services, Public Works, and Economic Development |

*Snapshot reflects info at time of certification

What participants value about our program.

Viewing **performance metrics** against other cities.

Network of colleagues in other cities, creating a direct relationship with USGBC/GBCI staff, learning about other cities' approaches to credits.

Monthly meetings, the ability to contact staff at USGBC, and presentations for each category.

Technical assistance was critical, we wouldn't have gone through the process without the fee waivers, and the networking with other communities was a bonus.

Access to technical support and advice from USGBC, opportunity to connect with other cities in the cohort, motivation to pursue certification.

The organization of the cohort year broke down the process into manageable parts that made it so much easier to comprehend and complete.

We were able to **reduce our costs** with the grant provided by Bank of America.

We had the opportunity to work on **internationally accepted sustainability standards**, identify gaps related to those standards and enhance our communities in terms of the various components of LEED for Cities.

We would gladly do it again because we were forced to take a hard look at ourselves, and we learned a lot. The process helped us to **set realistic goals** for a sustainable future.

Send any questions and submit your
certification cohort application to:

cities@usgbc.org