

Take the LEED

Green building certification for new construction and major renovations



As sustainability moves from a forward-thinking to a business imperative, building owners, developers, and facility managers are increasingly turning to environmental performance standards to guide design decisions, meet regulatory requirements, and boost property value. At the center of this movement is **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)**, the world's most recognized framework for evaluating building sustainability.

LEED for Building Design and Construction (LEED BD+C)

Developed and maintained by the **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)**, LEED takes a holistic approach to green building, helping to identify sustainability opportunities across every phase of design and construction while maximizing environmental, operational, and occupant benefits. Flexible rating options ensure LEED BD+C can be tailored to virtually any project type or scope.

How LEED BD+C Certification Works

New Construction and Major Renovations applies to newly constructed buildings and significant renovations of existing facilities that do not primarily fall under specialized use categories. Projects using LEED v4 may also apply this rating system to multifamily residential buildings with four or more occupiable stories above grade.

Core and Shell Development is designed for the design and construction of only the building's core systems, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection.

Projects pursuing certification can earn up to 110 points by meeting performance criteria that address the environmental impacts associated with building design, construction, operations, and ongoing management.

The total points achieved determine one of four certification tiers:

- ▶ Certified
- ▶ Silver
- ▶ Gold
- ▶ Platinum



LEED has become the gold standard for reducing environmental impact while creating healthier, more efficient places to live and work.

Take the LEED *continued*

These points are distributed across nine key categories that define today's green building landscape:

- ▶ Integrative Process
- ▶ Sustainable Sites
- ▶ Water Efficiency
- ▶ Energy and Atmosphere
- ▶ Materials and Resources
- ▶ Indoor Environmental Quality
- ▶ Location and Transportation
- ▶ Regional Priority
- ▶ Innovation

LEED v4 places special emphasis on outcomes — encouraging strategies that meaningfully reduce environmental footprints, mitigate climate impacts, improve occupant health, and safeguard critical water resources.

Why LEED Matters: Benefits Beyond the Plaque

Achieving LEED certification is far more than a branding exercise. The USGBC highlights a range of benefits that directly support asset performance and long-term value:

For builders and developers

- ▶ Independent, third-party validation that the building performs as designed
- ▶ Alignment with evolving code requirements and sustainability goals

For owners and property managers

- ▶ Lower operating and maintenance costs
- ▶ Reduced energy and water consumption
- ▶ Higher marketability, including faster lease-up rates and stronger valuations
- ▶ Opportunities to qualify for financial incentives such as tax credits, grants, and zoning allowances

For occupants

- ▶ Improved indoor environmental quality
- ▶ Healthier, more comfortable spaces with better air quality and daylighting
- ▶ Enhanced experience and productivity

A Smarter Path Forward

As organizations navigate increasing regulatory pressure and rising expectations around sustainability, LEED BD+C offers a proven, performance-based framework for transforming design intent into measurable environmental impact. Whether you're constructing a new facility, repositioning an aging property, or aiming to strengthen ESG performance, LEED BD+C certification provides a clear pathway toward lower operating costs, long-term resiliency, and improved environmental stewardship.

Considering LEED BD+C for your next project isn't just good for the planet — it's good business. Work with National Grid to make your next LEED BD+C project achievable.

For more information, visit:
ngrid.com/newconstruction

