



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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About LEED® for Neighborhood Development

What is LEED for Neighborhood Development?

LEED for Neighborhood Development is a rating system that integrates the principles of smart growth, new urbanism, and green building into the first national standard for neighborhood design. It is being developed by USGBC in partnership with the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

What is the significance of LEED for Neighborhood Development certification?

Using the framework of other LEED rating systems, LEED for Neighborhood Development recognizes development projects that successfully protect and enhance the overall health, natural environment, and quality of life of our communities. The rating system encourages smart growth and new urbanist best practices, promoting the location and design of neighborhoods that reduce vehicle miles traveled and communities where jobs and services are accessible by foot or public transit. It promotes more efficient energy and water use—especially important in urban areas where infrastructure is often overtaxed.

What is the status of LEED for Neighborhood Development?

The LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot program is well underway. A call for pilot projects took place between in early 2007. Due to overwhelming interest in the pilot program, additional resources were made available that enabled us to accommodate twice as many projects as originally anticipated, and 238 projects from 39 states and 6 countries are now registered to participate in the pilot program. These projects are in the process of gathering documentation based on the rating system, which they will submit to USGBC in order to become certified. The information learned during the pilot program will be used to make further revisions to the rating system and certification process, and the resulting draft rating system will be posted for public comment before it is submitted for final approvals and balloting.

What can projects do to get certified if they missed the deadline for participation in the pilot program?

Although the period for applying to be in the pilot program has passed, projects will be able to participate in the post-pilot program, which will be universally available to interested markets and should launch in early 2009. LEED for Neighborhood Development enables projects to certify at both very early and very late stages of development, so the vast majority of projects interested in the pilot program should also be able to utilize the post-pilot program. For now, projects can look to the pilot rating system and other information that is posted at www.usgbc.org/leed/nd for general guidance as to what LEED for Neighborhood Development is about, although the rating system will change somewhat as a result of the pilot program.

USGBC staff and the LEED for Neighborhood Development Core Committee are developing ways for projects that are interested in pursuing LEED for Neighborhood

Development to remain engaged during the pilot phase, even if they were not able to be part of the pilot program. Please join the LEED for Neighborhood Development Corresponding Committee listserv if you would like to hear about these opportunities once they become available. This listserv will also be notified when the full program is open for registration. Directions on how to join the corresponding committee are below.

How do the other LEED rating systems interact with LEED for Neighborhood Development?

Points are available within the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system for including LEED Certified buildings and for integrating green building practices within the buildings on the project site. These credits relate to energy efficiency, reduced water use, building reuse, recycled materials, and heat island reduction.

How is LEED for Neighborhood Development different from the Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects?

The Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects is based on the LEED for New Construction rating system for buildings and therefore does not incorporate smart growth or new urbanism to the extent that LEED for Neighborhood Development does. The LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system focuses on residential, commercial, and mixed use projects developed by a single entity but often sold or leased to multiple consumers whereas the application guide targets institutional and office park campuses, which are usually owned and operated by a single entity.

What are the LEED for Neighborhood Development Core and Corresponding Committees?

The core committee does the day-to-day work of developing the rating system, while a larger corresponding committee is also established for every LEED product so that interested stakeholders can participate in its development. The corresponding committee listserv enables a wider group of experts and interested parties to stay updated and receive notification of opportunities to provide feedback. Corresponding committee members receive minutes from core committee meetings and other announcements.

I would like to be involved with LEED for Neighborhood Development. How can I join the corresponding committee?

The corresponding committee is open to USGBC members and nonmembers but there are different ways to join:

- USGBC members can visit www.usgbc.org, log into Your Account, and subscribe to the committee listserv.
- Others can send an e-mail to nd@committees.usgbc.org requesting to be added to the corresponding committee.

What is the timeline for developing LEED for Neighborhood Development?

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- 2007: LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot program launches
- 2008: Committee revises LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System, public comment periods held
- 2009: LEED for Neighborhood Development (full post-pilot program) ballot and launch

How do I find out more?

For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/leed/nd or leedinfo@usgbc.org.