

LEED Certification

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the world's most widely used green building rating system. LEED certification provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings, offering environmental, social, and governance benefits. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement, and it is backed by an entire industry of committed organizations and individuals paving the way for market transformation.

The benefits of constructing LEED-certified buildings are numerous. They can result in cost savings, increased efficiency, reduced carbon emissions, and improved health for occupants.

Additionally, they play a crucial role in addressing climate change, meeting ESG objectives, promoting resilience, and supporting equitable communities.

Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center is committed to enhancing community well-being, minimizing our impact on the environment, and preserving and restoring water resources by achieving the goals of the LEED rating system.

LEED Facts:

- Location & Transportation:
 - Constructed on previously developed land, thus reducing the destruction of natural ecosystems.
 - Located in an urban area with robust public transport infrastructure and walkable access to basic services.
 - 2 Electric Vehicle Recharging Stations provided for electric-powered vehicles.
- Water Efficiency:
 - 74% landscaping water use reduction from a standard baseline due to the selection of drought-tolerant plant species and efficient irrigation equipment.
 - A 35% reduction of indoor water use over standard fixtures, saving an estimated 195,880 gallons of water per year due to low-flow fixtures and high-efficiency toilets.
 - Water system sub-metering installed for irrigation and indoor plumbing fixtures and fittings. Submetering helps identify leaks and usage anomalies earlier, reducing waste and potential damage.
- Sustainable Site:
 - High solar reflectance roof to minimize impacts of microclimates on human and wildlife habitats.
 - Landscaping with native plantings and a roof deck for social gatherings.
- Energy and Atmosphere:
 - The new building has achieved energy cost savings of 30%.
 - HVAC&R systems do not use CFC-based refrigerants.
 - Mercury-free LED lighting, eliminating the risk of toxic exposure and increasing energy efficiency.

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof and solar thermal systems offset 13% of the building energy cost with renewable energy.
- Materials & Resources
 - Building products and materials selected for which Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are available, chemical ingredients are inventoried using an accepted methodology and are verified to minimize the use and generation of harmful substances.
 - Diverted over 75% of demolition and construction waste materials from landfills.
- Indoor Environment Quality:
 - Low emitting Materials used throughout the building to help reduce harmful emissions and provide healthy air to the building occupants.
 - Pure air pledge for a smoke-free environment.
 - Views are provided through expansive window openings with high-performance glazing for 77% of regularly occupied spaces.
- Innovation:
 - Green cleaning policy implemented to reduce occupant exposure to potentially hazardous chemical, biological, and particulate contaminants.
 - Integrated Pest Management plan implemented to mitigate pests through holistic measures to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals for eliminating pests.
 - Site Management policy implemented to preserve ecological integrity and encourage environmentally sensitive site management practices.
 - Facility maintenance and renovation policy to reduce the environmental harms associated with the materials purchased, installed, and disposed of during building maintenance and renovation.

To achieve LEED certification, a project earns points by adhering to prerequisites and credits that address carbon, energy, water, waste, transportation, materials, health, and indoor environmental quality. Projects go through a verification and review process by GBCI and are awarded points that correspond to a level of LEED certification: Certified (40-49 points), Silver (50-59 points), Gold (60-79 points) and Platinum (80+ points). Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center is *pursuing LEED Gold Certification*.

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