

# LEED Certification Summary



## *what is LEED?*

LEED, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted standard for measuring the green strategies used in your building.

LEED was developed by the USGBC (US Green Building Council) in 1999. The USGBC is an organization based in Washington D.C. that supports eco-friendly construction.

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: *sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and materials selection.*

LEED is a performance based system with four levels of certification: certified, silver, gold, and platinum. Certification is achieved by earning credits in the five key areas of human and environmental health.

## *why would LEED certification be beneficial to you?*

- a. Third party proof that a project meets high performance standards
- b. Nationally recognized as environmentally responsible
- c. Visible and marketable expression of owner's values
- d. Secure donor giving with measurable results

## *steps to LEED certify your project*

1. Set project goals
  - a. Does the owner want to be LEED certified?
  - b. What category of certification is desired?
  - c. What are the commitments regarding time and cost?
2. Register your project with the USGBC (US Green Building Council)
  - a. Registration fee required
3. Develop a strategy for certification
  - a. Select level of implementation
  - b. Make tough decisions
  - c. Use credit rating system
4. Certification and documentation process
  - a. Certification fees required
    - i. less than 50,000 s.f. = fixed rate
    - ii. 50,000 - 500,000 s.f. = rate based on s.f.
    - iii. more than 500,000 s.f. = fixed rate
  - b. Application documentation submittal
  - c. LEED technical reviews
  - d. Certification award
  - e. Appeal submittals
  - f. Platinum certification rebates