

## **LEED for Commercial Interiors**

### **What is LEED for Commercial Interiors?**

LEED for Commercial Interiors is a certification program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council that addresses the specifics of tenant spaces primarily in office, retail and institutional buildings. Tenants who lease their space or do not occupy the entire building can LEED certify their space as a green interior.

LEED for Commercial Interiors was designed to work hand-in-hand with the LEED for Core & Shell certification system. LEED for Core & Shell is a tool that developers can use to LEED certify the core and shell of their development. LEED for Core & Shell and LEED Commercial Interiors establish green building criteria for commercial office real estate for use by both developers and tenants.

### **How do I know if my commercial interior space is a good fit for LEED?**

Projects should review the rating system and be sure the project can meet all prerequisites and achieve the minimum number of points required for LEED certification. If more than one rating system applies, the project team may decide which certification type to pursue. Email: [leedinfo@usgbc.org](mailto:leedinfo@usgbc.org) for more info.

### **What is the point breakdown for LEED for Commercial Interiors?**

LEED for Commercial Interiors ratings are awarded according to the following scale:

There are 100 base points; 6 possible Innovation in Design and 4 Regional points

Certified 40–49 points

Silver 50–59 points

Gold 60–79 points

Platinum 80 points and above

### **I am trained as an interior designer and don't have the background to handle the energy- and HVAC-related credits. What do I do?**

Successful LEED projects begin with a fully integrated design team in which all the professional disciplines work together toward the project goals. Following a process of integrated design will ensure that the team is working together and minimize any potential errors.

### **I am not familiar with commissioning and have never encountered it in an interior project. Is it really necessary? How do I get it done?**

Commissioning is a process to assure that the project is built and operating as it was designed. Independent commissioning agents can be hired to perform the task. Larger Architectural and Engineering firms may have commissioning agents on staff. Commissioning is an important step designed to save the project money over the lifecycle of the project.

### **Where can I get an updated copy of the LEED for Commercial Interiors Rating System?**

The rating system that addresses interior spaces is located in the Green Interior Design & Construction reference guide and is available for purchase from the [USGBC Web site](#).

### **What is the process for LEED certification?**

Certification is now administered by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) through a network of professional, third-party certification bodies. To register a project for LEED certification, visit [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org).

**Does the LEED certification system recommend building products?**

No, buildings and tenant spaces are certified under the LEED certification systems, not the materials that are used to construct the building or interiors.

Within the LEED certification system, building products contribute to achieving LEED points following performance-based requirements. To meet these requirements, practitioners identify products that have specific attributes. Some LEED points will require that certain limits or minimums be met. Other points require that specific product technical information be quantified in order to calculate the product's aggregate environmental or health value.

Many manufactures now offer the necessary product technical information that you need to meet LEED credit requirements and have trained sales professionals who can guide you to products and materials that may contribute to LEED credits, as well as meet your broader environmental criteria.

**What educational programs are available to learn more about LEED?**

USGBC offers a variety of LEED instructor-led workshops, online courses and Webinars (live and on-demand). To learn more about USGBC's LEED curriculum, visit [www.usgbc.org/education](http://www.usgbc.org/education).

**Are IIDA, ASID, and AIA continuing education units available for LEED Workshops?**

Yes, continuing education units are available; please inquire when you sign up for a LEED workshop for details.

**How do I get started?**

You can learn more about LEED on USGBC's Web site: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) or by contacting USGBC via email [leedinfo@usgbc.org](mailto:leedinfo@usgbc.org).