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# LEED Rating Systems

## What is LEED®?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.



LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. 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, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

## Who uses LEED?

Architects, real estate professionals, facility managers, engineers, interior designers, landscape architects, construction managers, lenders and government officials all use LEED to help transform the built environment to sustainability. State and local governments across the country are

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### New Construction

LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations is a benchmark for building owners and operators to distinguish high-performance commercial buildings.

### Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance

LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance is a benchmark for building owners and operators to distinguish high-performance commercial buildings through improvements and maintenance.

### Commercial Interiors

LEED for Commercial Interiors is a benchmark for building owners and operators to distinguish high-performance commercial buildings through improvements and maintenance.

### Core & Shell

LEED for Core & Shell aids designers, builders, building owners in implementing sustainable design and construction.

### Schools

LEED for Schools recognizes the unique nature of construction of K-12 schools and addresses the specific needs of school spaces.

### Retail

LEED for Retail recognizes the unique nature of construction projects and addresses the specific needs of retail spaces.

### Healthcare

LEED for Healthcare promotes sustainable plan construction for high-performance healthcare facilities.

### Homes

LEED for Homes promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes.

### Neighborhood Development

LEED for Neighborhood Development integrates growth, urbanism and green building into the fabric of communities.

adopting LEED for public-owned and public-funded buildings; there are LEED initiatives in federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Energy, and State; and LEED projects are in progress in 41 different countries, including Canada, Brazil, Mexico and India.

## How is LEED Developed?

LEED Rating Systems are developed through an open, consensus-based process led by [LEED committees](#). Each volunteer committee is composed of a diverse group of practitioners and experts representing a cross-section of the building and construction industry. The key elements of USGBC's consensus process include a balanced and transparent committee structure, technical advisory groups that ensure scientific consistency and rigor, opportunities for stakeholder comment and review, member ballot of new rating systems, and a fair and open appeals process.

neighborhood design.

### LEED Rating System Drafts

Review and comment on proposed final drafts of Rating Systems.

### LEED Frequently Asked Questions

This is a great resource for first time LEED users, team members alike.

[About USGBC](#) | [Policies & Guidelines](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Contact](#)

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