



LEED 2009

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LEED 2009 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between LEED Version 3 and LEED 2009?

LEED 2009 is part of LEED Version 3 (v3). LEED 2009 refers to the actual LEED rating system and LEED credits. LEED 2009, coupled with an expanded third-party certification program and significant enhancements to LEED Online, make up the multi-faceted initiative that we refer to as LEED v3.

Which rating systems will be incorporated into LEED 2009?

LEED 2009 will incorporate New Construction, Core and Shell, Commercial Interiors, Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance and Schools.

What notable advancements will be reflected in LEED 2009?

Notable advancements include:

- LEED Prerequisite/Credit Alignment and Harmonization
- Predictable Development Cycle
- Transparent Environmental/Human Impact Credit Weighting
- Regionalization

LEED Prerequisite/Credit Alignment and Harmonization – Structure to consolidate, align and update all existing LEED Rating Systems into their “most effective common denominator” providing a pool of prerequisites/credits for all LEED Rating Systems. A scrub of the existing Credit Interpretation Rulings (CIRs) was conducted and necessary precedent-setting and clarifying language has been incorporated into the prerequisites/credits.

Predictable Development Cycle – LEED will move into a predictable development cycle that will help drive continuous improvements in LEED and allow the market to participate more fully in LEED’s growth and development.

Transparent Environmental/Human Impact Credit Weighting – LEED has undergone a scientifically grounded re-weighting of credits, which will reflect more accurately a credit point impact on the environment and human health (positive or negative).

Regionalism – Incentives will be provided through LEED Innovation & Design style bonus points that will add value to those credits that are considered most important for defined regions. Project teams may select bonus points from a list of eligible credits driven by chapters, regional councils, and the LEED Steering Committee.

How will LEED 2009 affect the LEED AP (Accredited Professional) Exam?

The current version of the LEED AP exam will be available through 2008. Beginning in early 2009, after LEED 2009 launches, exams will be updated to reflect the new changes. The LEED Professional Accreditation exam will continue to keep pace with USGBC’s LEED Rating System. GBCI is working with volunteer subject matter experts and exam development consultants to evaluate how the LEED AP credential will reflect LEED 2009.

Will there be LEED 2009 Workshops?

Yes, LEED 2009 Workshops will be rolled out in March 2009. New LEED AP exams for Building Design and Construction and Interior Design and Construction will be available in August 2009. New online courses and webinars are also being planned to support LEED 2009.

What if I register my project under the current LEED system – will I be required to switch to LEED 2009 in January?

Projects registering under the current LEED rating systems will have the option to upgrade to LEED 2009 during the transition time when the new system launches with LEED online, or they can continue to use the version of LEED under which they registered.

Will LEED 2009 apply to LEED for Homes and LEED for Neighborhood Development?

At this time, LEED 2009 is only for commercial building applications and their existing rating systems (LEED for: New Construction, Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance, Commercial Interiors, Schools and Core & Shell).

How will LEED 2009 affect LEED for Retail, Healthcare, and Schools?

LEED for Retail and Healthcare will be aligned with LEED 2009. The date is to be determined in 2009, more information to follow.

For more information about LEED 2009, visit www.usgbc.org/leed2009