



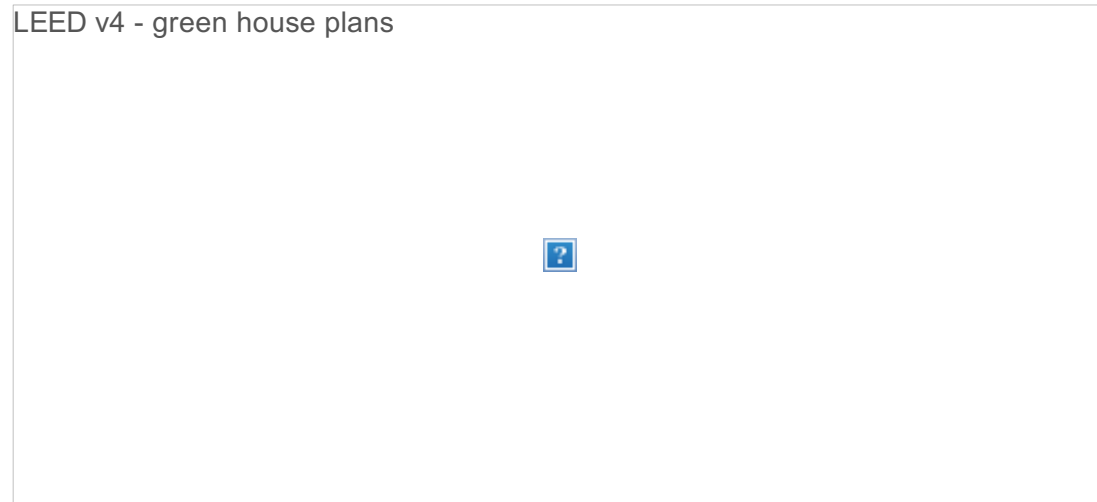
The Blog



What's Coming with LEED v4: Changes and New Credits for Green House Plans

Posted on 31. Dec, 2012 by [Maryruth Belsey Priebe](#) in [Articles](#)

LEED v4 - green house plans



The process of developing the next version of the [LEED rating system](#) is well underway, having just finished the fifth (and supposed final) round of public comments. This new version of LEED which will be known as LEED v4 will fine-tune the foundational LEED programs already in play, with the goal of increasing

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simplicity, expanding market penetration, and developing more stringent requirements, including new concepts and terms. The following is a brief summary of some of the changes you're likely to see when [LEED v4](#) is finally released.

- **Sustainable sites:** This category will now focus more on site-specific issues. For instance, the new Rainwater Management credits will encourage sites to “do right by nature” by managing the 95% of the average precipitation depth during a 24-hour period by using low-impact development (LID) tools like rain gardens, bioswales, and other advanced stormwater management tools. The credit for Light Pollution Reduction will offer two options. The BUG (backlight, uplight, and glare) Rating Method based on the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America’s classification for selection of outdoor lighting fixtures. Alternatively, a project can use the Calculation Method for reducing glare, light trespass, and skyglow by applying the International Dark-Sky Association’s Model Lighting Ordinance tools.
- **Energy and atmosphere:** This category will be revamped by the addition of new energy-metering prerequisites for ongoing measurement of performance. This category will include an updated building envelope commissioning (BECx), which is “utilized to validate that the performance of materials, components, assemblies, systems, and design achieve the objectives and requirements of the owner as outlined in the contract documents.” Additionally, projects can now officially use certified carbon offsets to offset project energy use.
- **Materials and resources:** This category will offer three new two-part credits for publishing environmental impacts and product ingredients, all of which cover Building Product Disclosure and Optimization. This will help to push the market to greater transparency, and create a data set that will encourage the development of new products and materials. In this category is also a new Building Life-Cycle Impact Reduction, which gives credit for reusing existing buildings and/or salvaged materials. This category will also offer credits for biobased raw materials, with all non-forestry materials requiring Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) certification which covers crops in a similar fashion to FSC.
- **Indoor environmental quality:** Here credits can be earned for measuring VOCs. All indoor materials will need to be tested by manufacturers for VOC emissions, and paints and adhesives will be required to provide measurements of VOCs for VOC emissions and VOC content (what’s in the can). In this category is also a new credit for acoustic performance, which

will focus on noise levels, sound isolation between spaces, sound reinforcement and masking, and reverberation time.



There's a lot more going on with LEED v4 which you can find out through the [USGBC site](#). For a great comparison of LEED 2009 to LEED v4, [check out this blog](#). Though there has been much back and forth in the process of developing the next level of LEED programs, the hoped-for launch of LEED v4 is now Spring of 2013.

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