

LEED v5 IS OUR MOST IMPACTFUL VERSION YET

DECARBONIZATION drives the industry towards a decarbonized built environment across all major sources of emissions: operational, embodied, and transportation.

QUALITY OF LIFE uses human-centric strategies to address crucial aspects of sustainable building, including human health and well-being, resilience, and community well-being.

ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION emphasizes strategies and actions that can be implemented at the individual asset level that limit environmental degradation and seek to rehabilitate and restore ecosystems.



LEED + Grid Integration

Version	Key Credits	Pathways
LEED v4	Demand Response	Case 1. Demand response program available or Case 2. Demand response program not available or Case 3. Permanent load shifting (OM only)
LEED v4.1	Grid Harmonization	Case 1. Demand Response Program Available and Participation or Case 2. Demand Response Capable Building and/or Case 3: Load Flexibility and Management Strategies
LEED v5	Grid Interactive	Option 1. Energy Storage and/or Option 2. Demand Response Program and/or Option 3. Automated Demand-Side Management and/or Option 4. Power Resilience
Pilot credit	Grid Optimal	Option 1: Calculate and Report GridOptimal Performance Option 2: Across-The-Board Improvement Option 3: Focused Area Improvement

RESULTS TO DATE (FOCUS ON GRID-SPECIFIC CREDITS)

- Demand Response – 30+% attempted, high withdraw rate, and most achieved. About 1000 projects.
- Grid Harmonization – 70+% attempted, high withdraw rate, and most achieved. About 151 projects.
- Grid Optimal ACP – few projects have used; need to connect measures with metrics

MARKET FEEDBACK (1 OF 2)

- Project teams misunderstand the credit requirements and intent, and/or cannot demonstrate actual implementation. For example, some project teams:
 - Propose fuel-switching controls or on-site generation as strategies to reduce peak electrical demand.
 - Are unaware that scheduled load reductions do not qualify as demand response.
 - Propose demand-response measures that are implemented entirely manually.
 - Cannot provide functional testing demonstrating that the measures have been implemented and are operational.
 - Cannot verify the required 10% peak-load reduction.

MARKET FEEDBACK (2 OF 2)

- “Where are the Time of use rates?”
- “On new construction projects, DR is rarely on the table until it comes up on LEED scorecard... a lot of people between the team and the owner’s decision makers. And it doesn’t help that it is very hard to get a straight answer out of the utilities.”
- “Many building systems are [now] responsive to actual needs – occ sensor lighting, daylighting, DOAS ventilation tied to sensors, occupied period vacancy controls (temp reset, vent setback), etc. This drops a lot of load back to what is 'needed'. Going beyond that could lead to more occupant impacts.”
- “There's not necessarily a lot of equipment required to support demand response. It is a fantastic retrofit option once everyone knows how a building is going to operate.”
- Looking for solutions/examples across different building and fuel scenarios (e.g. retrofitted electric boilers with large hot water storage tanks; thermal energy storage; etc)

A photograph of a modern office interior. The space features large windows on the right side, providing a view of greenery outside. The ceiling is high and industrial, with exposed metal ductwork and modern lighting fixtures. The floor is made of light-colored wood. In the foreground, there are several white desks with black office chairs. The overall atmosphere is bright and contemporary.

IMPACT: DECARBONIZATION

LEED v5 provides a clear framework for delivering **near-zero carbon buildings**.

- Focus on all forms of emissions across the building lifecycle
 - Reducing operational carbon through energy efficiency, electrification, reduced peak loads, renewable energy, and selection and management of refrigerants
 - Reducing embodied carbon through material selection and reuse strategies
 - Reducing transportation emissions through compact, connected, transit-oriented development

NEW REQUIREMENTS:

- All LEED v5 projects will complete operational carbon projections through 2050 using tools to craft a decarbonization strategy
- Platinum projects have new minimum carbon requirements to push new standards of leadership

		New Construction	Core and Shell
	Integrative Process, Planning and Assessments (IP)	1	7
IPp1	Climate Resilience Assessment	Required	Required
IPp2	Human Impact Assessment	Required	Required
IPp3	Carbon Assessment	Required	Required
IPp4	Tenant Guidelines	-	Required
IPc1	Integrative Design Process	1	1
IPc2	Green Leases	-	6
	Location and Transportation (LT)	15	15
LTc1	Sensitive Land Protection	1	1
LTc2	Equitable Development	2	2
LTc3	Compact and Connected Development	6	6
LTc4	Transportation Demand Management	4	4
LTc5	Electric Vehicles	2	2
	Sustainable Sites (SS)	11	11
SSp1	Minimize Site Disturbance	Required	Required
SSc1	Biodiverse Habitat	2	2
SSc2	Accessible Outdoor Space	1	1
SSc3	Rainwater Management	3	3
SSc4	Enhanced Resilient Site Design	2	2
SSc5	Heat Island Reduction	2	2
SSc6	Light Pollution Reduction	1	1
	Water Efficiency (WE)	9	8
WEp1	Water Metering and Reporting	Required	Required
WEp2	Minimum Water Efficiency	Required	Required
WEc1	Water Metering and Leak Detection	1	1
WEc2	Enhanced Water Efficiency	8	7

LEED v5 for Building Design and Construction

		New Construction	Core and Shell
	Energy and Atmosphere (EA)	33	27
EAp1	Operational Carbon Projection and Decarbonization Plan	Required	Required
EAp2	Minimum Energy Efficiency	Required	Required
EAp3	Fundamental Commissioning	Required	Required
EAp4	Energy Metering and Reporting	Required	Required
EAp5	Fundamental Refrigerant Management	Required	Required
EAc1	Electrification	5	4
EAc2	Reduce Peak Thermal Loads	5	5
EAc3	Enhanced Energy Efficiency	10	7
EAc4	Renewable Energy	5	4
EAc5	Enhanced Commissioning	4	3
EAc6	Grid Interactive	2	2
EAc7	Enhanced Refrigerant Management	2	2
	Materials and Resources (MR)	18	21
MRp1	Planning for Zero Waste Operations	Required	Required
MRp2	Quantify and Assess Embodied Carbon	Required	Required
MRc1	Building and Materials Reuse	3	5
MRc2	Reduce Embodied Carbon	6	8
MRc3	Low-Emitting Materials	2	1
MRc4	Building Product Selection and Procurement	5	5
MRc5	Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion	2	2
	Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ)	13	11
EQp1	Construction Management	Required	Required
EQp2	Fundamental Air Quality	Required	Required
EQp3	No Smoking or Vehicle Idling	Required	Required
EQc1	Enhanced Air Quality	1	1
EQc2	Occupant Experience	7	7
EQc3	Accessibility and Inclusion	1	1
EQc4	Resilient Spaces	2	2
EQc5	Air Quality Testing and Monitoring	2	-
	Project Priorities (PR)	10	10
PRc1	Project Priorities	9	9
PRc2	LEED AP	1	1

Total	Possible Points:	110	110
--------------	------------------	------------	------------

Decarbonization

		NEW CONSTRUCTION	CORE AND SHELL
IP Prereq	Carbon Assessment	Required	Required
IP Prereq	Tenant Guidelines	-	Required
IP Credit	Integrative Design Process	1	1
IP Credit	Green Leases	-	6
LT Credit	Compact and Connected Development	6	6
LT Credit	Transportation Demand Management	4	4
LT Credit	Electric Vehicles	2	2
SS Credit	Heat Island Reduction	2	2
WE Prereq	Minimum Water Efficiency	Required	Required
WE Credit	Water Metering and Leak Detection	1	1
WE Credit	Enhanced Water Efficiency	8	7
EA Prereq	Operational Carbon Projection and Decar-	Required	Required
EA Prereq	Minimum Energy Efficiency	Required	Required
EA Prereq	Fundamental Commissioning	Required	Required
EA Prereq	Energy Metering and Reporting	Required	Required
EA Prereq	Fundamental Refrigerant Management	Required	Required
EA Credit	Electrification	5	4
EA Credit	Reduce Peak Thermal Loads	5	5
EA Credit	Enhanced Energy Efficiency	10	7
EA Credit	Renewable Energy	5	4
EA Credit	Enhanced Commissioning	4	3
EA Credit	Grid Interactive	2	2
EA Credit	Enhanced Refrigerant Management	2	2
MR Prereq	Planning for Zero Waste Operations	Required	Required
MR Prereq	Quantify and Assess Embodied Carbon	Required	Required
MR Credit	Building and Materials Reuse	3	5
MR Credit	Reduce Embodied Carbon	6	8
MR Credit	Building Product Selection and Procure-	5	5
MR Credit	Construction and Demolition Waste Diver-	2	2

LEED v5 for Building Design and Construction

	Integrative Process, Planning and Assessments (IP)	2
IPp1	Climate Resilience Assessment	Required
IPp2	Human Impact Assessment	Required
IPp3	Operations Assessment and Policy	Required
IPp4	Current Facilities Requirements and O+M Plan	Required
IPc1	Operational Planning for Resilience	1
IPc2	Worker Safety and Training	1
	Location and Transportation (LT)	8
LTc1	Sustainable Transportation Performance	6
LTc2	Transportation Demand Management	1
LTc3	Electric Vehicles	1
	Sustainable Sites (SS)	2
SSc1	Heat Island Reduction	1
SSc2	Light Pollution and Bird Collision Reduction	1
	Water Efficiency (WE)	15
WEp1	Water Metering and Reporting	Required
WEc1	Water Efficiency Performance	14
WEc2	Advanced Water Metering	1

	Energy and Atmosphere (EA)	34
EAp1	Carbon Projection from Energy Use	Required
EAp2	Energy Monitoring and Reporting	Required
EAp3	Minimum Energy Performance	Required
EAp4	Fundamental Refrigerant Management	Required
EAc1	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Performance	12
EAc2	Optimized Energy Performance	12
EAc3	Enhanced Refrigerant Management Performance	2
EAc4	Peak Load Reduction Performance	1
EAc5	Decarbonization and Efficiency Plans	4
EAc6	Peak Load Management	1
EAc7	Commissioning	2
	Materials and Resources (MR)	13
MRc1	Waste Reduction Performance	12
MRc2	Waste Reduction Strategies	1
	Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ)	26
EQp1	Verification of Ventilation and Filtration	Required
EQp2	No Smoking	Required
EQc1	Indoor Air Quality Performance	10
EQc2	Ventilation Performance	5
EQc3	Occupant Experience Performance	3
EQc4	Facility Stewardship Performance	3
EQc5	Air Filtration	1
EQc6	Resilient Spaces	1
EQc7	Green Cleaning	2
EQc8	Integrated Pest Management	1
	Project Priorities (PR)	10
PRc1	Project Priorities	10

Total	Possible Points: 110
--------------	-----------------------------

LEED v5 for Operations and Maintenance

Decarbonization		
IP Prereq	Climate Resilience Assessment	Required
IP Prereq	Operations Assessment and Policy	Required
IP Prereq	Current Facilities Requirements and O+M Plan	Required
LT Credit	Sustainable Transportation Performance	6
LT Credit	Transportation Demand Management	1
LT Credit	Electric Vehicles	1
SS Credit	Heat Island Reduction	1
WE Credit	Water Efficiency Performance	14
WE Credit	Advanced Water Metering	1
EA Prereq	Carbon Projection from Energy Use	Required
EA Prereq	Energy Monitoring and Reporting	Required
→ EA Prereq	Minimum Energy Performance	Required
EA Prereq	Fundamental Refrigerant Management	Required
→ EA Credit	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Performance	12
→ EA Credit	Optimized Energy Performance	12
EA Credit	Enhanced Refrigerant Management Performance	2
→ EA Credit	Peak Load Reduction Performance	1
→ EA Credit	Decarbonization and Efficiency Plans	4
→ EA Credit	Peak Load Management	1
→ EA Credit	Commissioning	2
MR Credit	Waste Performance	12
MR Credit	Waste Reduction Strategies	1

LEED v5 for Operations and Maintenance

THANK YOU.

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS.

Ebeardsley@usgbc.org | 571-970-7916

Launch of the U.S. League in the World Championship for Energy Savings

Your building is already doing the work. Now let's give it an award.

- National champions will be recognized at Greenbuild 2026
- U.S. Award categories include:
 - Most Improved
 - People's Choice Award
 - Deep Emissions Reduction Award
 - Healthy Indoor Air Award
 - Impact at Scale Award
 - ... and more!
- Free & easy to enter
 - Already using ARC and Energy Star Portfolio Manager? You're halfway there!
- **Applications open from now until Aug. 31**
- All top performers will compete for global recognition at COP 31



**World Championship
for Energy Savings**