New and Improved Way to Certify Multiple Buildings

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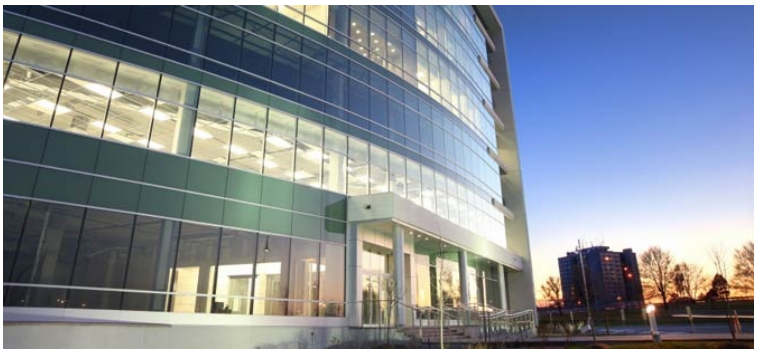

In 2005, USGBC developed the application guidance for multiple buildings and buildings on a campus. Since then, we've continued to refine and expand both the document and the supporting tools.

The newest update includes two key features.

The first is **Group Certification**, which allows project teams with separate buildings that are substantially similar to certify as one project that shares a single certification. This is now available in addition to the existing **Campus** approach, which allows buildings to take credit for shared attributes on a site and achieve separate LEED certification for each project, building space or group.

The second feature comes in the form of **LEED Online for Campus**. Project teams using LEED 2009 for Campus Program projects have the added support of an interface that will:

- Support a faster workflow
- Streamline processes and approval across several projects
- Provide a more flexible structure that facilitates collaboration across multiple project team members
- Feature forms designed specifically for Campus projects based on the guidance provided in the Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects

Together, these new features add more flexibility and save project teams time as they certify multiple buildings.

Getting started (projects using LEED 2009)

- Step 1: Review the Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects to learn about requirements for certification
- Step 2: Take a tour of LEED Online for Campus
- Step 3: Register your project

Questions?

- Learn more about what defines a "campus", including requirements and if this program is a good fit for your project
- See answers to common questions about LEED Online for Campus Program projects

Melissa Baker
Vice President, Technical Solutions
U.S. Green Building Council

Member employees, USGBC staff

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22 comments

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Nandana Dilip Kumar
Senior Manager, LEAD Consultancy & Engg Services Ltd

43 weeks 2 days ago

Can we apply group certification for multiple CI projects under a single owner on the same campus?

Eric Anderson 33 weeks 3 days ago
LEED Specialist, U.S. Green Building Council

Yes, Nandana, You can apply group certification for multiple CI projects under a single owner on the same campus. Please refer to the Campus Guidance document cited in the above article (http://www.usgbc.org/resources/campus-guidance) for full eligibility details (pages 5 and 10, in particular). That said, if the spaces are within the same building & being fit-out under a single scope of work, you can usually certify them as a single LEED-CI project without utilizing the group approach. Please refer to pages 19-20 of the MPR Supplemental Guidance (http://www.usgbc.orghttp://usgbc.org/sites/default/files/Docs10131.pdf) for specific criteria that must be met when certifying separate spaces within a larger, single building or tenant area.

Courtney Royal 51 weeks 3 days ago
Senior Sustainability Consultant, Taitem Engineering, PC

Our firm has been asked to assume the LEED consultant role on a very large development in Istanbul, Turkey. The previous architect is not longer with the firm and the new architect reached out to us, so we are coming a little late and I wanted to confirm a few things. The development has 5 multifamily buildings within the same development, but only registered under 1 LEED-NCv2.2 project. Previous architect set it up that all 5 buildings documentation, etc. can be included into one certification. Is this acceptable? Was there a previous "campus block" approach before 2009? Thanks!

Monique Caron 38 weeks 3 days ago
LEED Specialist, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Courtney - If the project is registered in a v2 rating system, you may proceed and use the 2005 Application Guide for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects, which allows multiple buildings in one registration, as long as you meet all requirements outlined, and submit before the rating system sunset date. (http://www.usgbc.org/Docs/Archive/General/Docs1097.pdf). On page 6: "Certifying a group of new buildings as a package where the entire building set will be rated as a package and only one rating received For entities that construct a set of buildings at once or over a defined time period in a campus setting, certification of each building individually could result in excessive documentation, much of which would be duplicated between buildings. In this case the option of rating the entire building set may be the best choice. When certifying a set of buildings under the Application Guide, you may choose campus requirements and submittals in lieu of the standard LEED-NC requirements and submittals where unique aspects of the campus setting impact the credit affecting the buildings. The Application Guide provides the methods for calculations and submittals for credits that may be averaged across the set of buildings and defines which credits must be met by each individual building. Using the averaging techniques, where applicable, allows for one rating to be applied to the building set, thereby minimizing documentation. Identify the group of buildings with a single name for LEED registration and certification." Since Group projects can get quite complicated, if you have additional questions, kindly reach out to us at http://www.usgbc.org/contactus and select 'Certification Question'.

Melissa Baker 1 year 17 weeks ago
Vice President, Technical Solutions, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Neshat, Yes, the April 2014 version of the guidance is applicable to all projects for both LEED v2009 and LEED v4. You can use that version of the guidance for your project. Please let us know if you have other questions. Thanks!

Neshat Sakeena 1 year 20 weeks ago
Sustainability Consultant, Ramboll Group

Hello, I am currently working on a LEED NC - v2009 Multiple buildings project that was registered in Sept 2013. What document should i refer to as campus guidance. This page leads to a link with the campus guidance effective from April 2014. Can i use this for reference? Thanks

Megan Ritchie Saffitz 40 weeks 3 days ago
Director of LEED Support, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Nashat - It looks like Melissa's response didn't properly sync with your question, so I wasn't sure if you were notified that she responded: "Hi Neshat, Yes, the April 2014 version of the guidance is applicable to all projects for both LEED v2009 and LEED v4. You can use that version of the guidance for your project. Please let us know if you have other questions. Thanks!"

Neshat Sakeena 40 weeks 2 days ago
Sustainability Consultant, Ramboll Group

Thank you Megan I was not, Thanks for your response Melissa

GLENN BELLAMY 1 year 23 weeks ago
Heery International, Inc.

Your new website is not accessible much of the time. Why does it not work? I can only get access using Chrome. Why is that?

Nora Knox 1 year 23 weeks ago
Digital Marketing Manager, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Glenn, we have not heard of anyone having these issues, but our IT team will reach out to you directly to help with any issues you're having.

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