



# RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## LEED

**LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a program sponsored and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (and in Canada, by the Canada Green Building Council). Its purpose is to provide a rating system that encourages designers and builders to choose “green” designs and products for the construction and operation of a building. A “green” product or design is one that has minimal impact on the environment. Green products are factors in designing for a sustainable development. A sustainable development has been defined as;

*“...a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

The **LEED** program is currently broken down into nine standards;

- New Construction and Major Renovations
- Existing Building Operations and Maintenance
- Commercial Interior Projects
- Core and Shell Development Projects
- Guidelines for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects
- Neighbourhood Development
- **LEED** for Schools
- **LEED** for Retail
- Homes

Each one of these standards has a number of categories dealing with environmental and energy designs. As an example, here are the categories for the New Construction and Major Renovations standard;

- Sustainable Sites
- Material and Resources
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- Innovation and Design Process

Each of these categories will have a number of requirements and questions and each question, if answered positively, will be given a number of credits. At the end of the project the design team submits documentation to the **LEED** Steering Committee for verification of the total number of credits allowed by **LEED** Guidelines for certification. Depending on the number of approved credits, the project is awarded a Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Certified level of **LEED** certification.

It should be noted that construction products themselves, and manufacturing companies are not “**LEED** approved” or “**LEED** certified”. The manufacturers can however, make products which may or may not qualify for **LEED** credits. To determine if a product qualifies for **LEED** credits you must first know what the **LEED** requirements are. The requirements vary based on the appropriate **LEED** standard. More information can be obtained at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) or [www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org).

For additional information on any of IKO’s products or application requirements, visit us on the web at [www.iko.com](http://www.iko.com), or contact us in Canada at 1-888-766-2468, or the United States at 1-888-456-7663.