



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 | • Energy and Atmosphere |
| • Material and Resources | • Indoor Environmental Quality |
| • Water Efficiency | • 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 or www.cagbc.org.

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