The U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED®) green building certification has transformed how the building industry and the public consider sustainability in the built environment. The most recent update to LEED, known as LEED v4, is the new standard for high-performance green buildings worldwide.

LEED v4 builds on the progress of previous versions, raising the bar for minimum performance and adding new optional credits in every category. It is intended to be more flexible than its predecessors, as it is designed to take into account the unique needs of particular building types.

Adopted after countless hours of volunteer time, consideration of public review comments, and a rigorous consensus process, LEED v4 sets a new standard for sustainability in buildings.

**OUTCOMES DELIVERED BY LEED**

LEED v4 has been designed to both enable and validate excellence across a core set of system goals, including:

- Reverse contribution to global climate change
- Enhance individual human health and well-being
- Protect and restore water resources
- Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Promote sustainable and regenerative material resources cycles
- Build a greener economy
- Enhance social equity, environmental justice and community quality of life

The USGBC is actively engaged in helping develop a model international green building code that has direct connections to LEED. We believe green codes provide a strong foundation upon which leadership can flourish. Local or regional requirements may build upon green code measures, and the LEED rating system provides a framework for rewarding those who go farther. Working together, codes provide a pathway towards leadership that results in more green buildings faster than otherwise possible.

**Codes & LEED: A Complementary Relationship**

Fundamental green building practices are now mainstream and eligible for incorporation into every project. An increasingly popular tool for establishing minimum green building best practices is the building code. With California first, many cities, counties, and states are adopting green building strategies as mandatory requirements in local building codes.

**Envisioning a Codes & LEED Relationship**
CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZED IN LEED

California is home to some of the first LEED buildings and consistently has the most annual certified LEED projects by gross square feet in the nation. Building upon this success, California was the first state in the nation to adopt a mandatory green building code in 2010 (Title 24, Part 11 of the California Building Code, also known as “CALGreen”).

California’s green building and energy codes overlap with LEED in many credit categories. While California’s robust codes do not encompass the breadth and depth of full LEED certification, they do contribute significantly to earning the prerequisite requirements and several credits in LEED.

The USGBC recently announced significant streamlining of all LEED v4 prerequisites and up to six credits when projects built to California’s building codes seek LEED certification. An 50 additional points are within reach via LEED credits that exceed code minimums but are complementary to state requirements. While at least 40 points are needed to earn LEED certification, California’s green codes support LEED better than ever.

Get recognized for California’s codes in LEED today! Register your project at www.usgbc.org/green-codes

LEED STREAMLINING

Below is the full list of prerequisites and credits available for streamlining in LEED on California projects. Additional details including rating system variations for the streamlining is available at www.usgbc.org/green-codes.

LEED v4 BD+C (New Commercial Construction):

- SS Prerequisite: Construction Activity Pollution Prevention
- SS Credit: Light Pollution Reduction (1 Point, Option 1)
- WE Prerequisite: Outdoor Water Use Reduction
- WE Prerequisite: Indoor Water Use Reduction
- WE Prerequisite: Building-Level Water Metering
- WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use Reduction (1 Point, Option 2)
- WE Credit: Indoor Water Use Reduction (1 Point)
- EA Prerequisite: Fundamental Commissioning and Verification
- EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance
- EA Prerequisite: Building-Level Energy Metering
- EA Prerequisite: Fundamental Refrigerant Management
- EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance (1 Point, Option 1)
- MR Prerequisite: Storage and Collection of Recyclables
- MR Prerequisite: Construction and Demolition Waste Management Planning
- MR Credit: Construction and Demolition Waste Management (1 Point, Option 1)
- EQ Prerequisite: Minimum Indoor Air Quality Performance
- EQ Prerequisite: Environmental Tobacco Smoke Control
- EQ Credit Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan (1 point)

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