

As the first and most widely accepted green building rating system in the United States, LEED® for New Construction (LEED-NC) has seen remarkable growth since it was first released in 1999. The USGBC has learned many lessons that have enabled us to continuously improve this third-party certification system to make it more effective and more user-friendly. Over the past two years, volunteers and staff have incorporated public comments and lessons learned into what we believe is a smarter, more effective rating system. We want to help you understand the proposed changes for LEED-NC v2.2. The following summarizes the major technical changes in the ballot draft of LEED-NC v2.2 along with frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the transition.

Major Credit Changes from LEED-NC v2.1 to the 2.2 ballot draft

SSc5.2- Site Development: Maximize Open Space	Open space definition has been refined to address both urban and suburban settings
SSc6.2- Stormwater Design: Quality Control	Stormwater control systems must be capable of treating 90% of runoff and removing 80% of total suspended solids. System performance information on phosphorous removal is no longer required.
SSc7.2- Heat Island Effect: Roof	New performance metric (Solar Reflectance Index)
SSc8- Light Pollution Reduction	Requirements for control of interior lighting to prevent spillover and restructuring of the exterior lighting requirement
WEc1.2- Water Efficient Landscaping	Use of municipally provided non-potable water is acceptable for credit compliance
The Commissioning Credits (EAp1 and EAc3)	Major clarifications were made to the credit to standardize LEED Commissioning Scope of Work
The Energy Performance Credits (EAp2 and EAc1)	Updated Referenced Standard (ASHRAE 90.1-2004), new energy modeling protocol, two new prescriptive compliance paths
EAc4- Enhanced Refrigerant Management	Credit is now based on refrigerant management methodology established in TSAC refrigerant report
MRc4- Recycled Content	Updated Referenced Standard (ISO 14201)
MRc5.1- Regional Materials	New requirements on what constitutes "regional"
EQp1- Minimum IAQ Performance	Updated Referenced Standard (ASHRAE 62.1-2004)
EQc2- Increased Ventilation	Credit basis has been changed from ventilation effectiveness to provision of higher than code minimum ventilation
EQc3.2- Construction IAQ Management Plan: Before Occupancy	Clarification on building flush-out procedures provided. New IAQ testing protocol has been established. Requirement for installation of MERV 13 filters has been moved to EQc5
EQc4.3- Low-Emitting Materials: Carpet Systems	Updated, Enhanced Referenced Standard (Green Label Plus)
EQc4.4- Low-Emitting Materials: Composite Wood & Agrifiber Products	Revised definition of composite wood. Laminating adhesives used to fabricate on-site and shop-applied composite wood and agrifiber assemblies shall contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins
EQc5- Indoor Chemical & Pollutant Source Control	Provision of properly sized and maintained walk off mats is now acceptable. Mechanically ventilated buildings must have MERV 13 or higher filtration media.
EQc6- Controllability of Systems	Re-structured credit basis: EQc6.1 - lighting, EQc6.2 - thermal control based on ASHRAE 55-2004
EQc7- Thermal Comfort	EQc7.1 and EQc7.2 have an updated Referenced Standard (ASHRAE 55-2004). EQc7.2 now requires a survey method for verification
EQ8.1- Daylight & Views: Daylight 75% of Spaces	Credit can be achieved by three compliance paths: calculation of glazing factor; daylight simulation; or direct measurement of daylighting performance in completed building

Alternative options were added for the following credits: **SSc2-** Development Density and Community Connectivity, **SSc4.3-** Alternative Transportation: Low-Emitting and Fuel-Efficient Vehicles, **SSc4.4-** Alternative Transportation: Parking Capacity, **SSc6.1-** Stormwater Design: Quality Control, and **EAc6-** Green Power. Also, the Submittals section is no longer part of the Rating System to ensure that documentation can be more flexible, streamlined, and explained on our website and in the Reference Guide. Virtually every credit has been altered to some degree.

If you are interested in a particular credit you do not see listed here, please read through the Rating System for more specifics.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why didn't you consider adding or removing credits in this revision?

A: This upgrade to version 2.2 is meant to correct known problems with LEED-NC as a smaller incremental change. The addition and removal of credits will occur in LEED-NC version 3, which will begin development soon.

Q: Will my 2.0/2.1 project have to comply with these new standards?

A: All registered LEED-NC v2.0/v2.1 projects will still be able to apply for certification using the standard in place at the time of project registration. When approved, LEED-NC v2.2 will be the only LEED-NC version available for registration. Projects will NOT be able to register for LEED-NC v2.1 after v2.2 has been approved by our members. *If you are working on a v2.1 project that you have not registered yet, and you don't want to use v2.2, you must register your project before October 28, 2005.*

Q: Can my v2.0/v2.1 project use the methods in 2.2 to achieve credits, without switching entirely to 2.2?

A: Based on feedback from LEED-NC project teams and users, USGBC has reconsidered and changed a LEED policy regarding the use of LEED-NC v2.2 credit compliance paths by LEED-NC v2.1/2.0 registered projects. It has become apparent since the release of v2.2 that credit modifications and compliance paths that were balloted for v2.2 are also appropriate and should be made available for use in v2.1/2.0 projects, with certain limitations. For more details, go to <http://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=1704>.

Q: Will there be new resources for LEED-NC v2.2 projects?

A: We are working on updating all of our LEED-NC resources for 2.2. If the ballot passes, the following items will be available at the Greenbuild Conference & Expo in Atlanta November 9-11, 2005:

- o The new LEED-NC v2.2 Reference Guide (\$150 for members, \$200 for non-members)
- o A new LEED-NC Technical Review Workshop
- o Online, reduced-cost registration for LEED-NC v2.2 projects
- o LEED-NC v2.2 Letter Templates
- o Customer Service, web site information, etc

The LEED Accreditation Exam will not transition to the v2.2 version until later in 2006. If you are planning to take the exam soon, you should continue to study the LEED-NC v2.1 Rating System and Reference Guide (which will still be available for purchase on our website).

Q: Will the project registration fee structure change for 2.2?

A: Some of the fees will change, although all of the details are not yet final. However, the registration fee will be lower and will not be based on building square footage. USGBC is discussing lower fees for small projects, but otherwise the fees will be comparable to the current fees for 2.1.

To register your project: Go to www.usgbc.org/leed, then "Register your Project."

To read the ballot draft of LEED-NC v2.2: Go to www.usgbc.org, and click on the home page item relating to the LEED-NC v2.2 Ballot.

Important Dates

September 28, 2005 - LEED-NC v2.2 Ballot begins

October 27, 2005 - LEED-NC v2.2 Ballot ends

If the ballot is approved...

October 28, 2005 - Last day to register for LEED-NC v2.1

October 31, 2005 - First day to register for LEED-NC v2.2

November 7, 2005 - All resources mentioned above will be available. The Reference Guide will be available for purchase online (and at Greenbuild).