



1800 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Suite 300  
Washington DC 20036  
T 202 828-7422  
F 202 828-5110  
[www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

# FACT SHEET

## *About LEED® for Homes*

### **What is LEED for Homes?**

The LEED for Homes Rating System provides a tool for recognizing homes that are designed and built to be energy- and resource-efficient, durable, less costly to maintain, and healthy for their occupants. The rating system can be applied to single and multi-family homes and is intended for both market-rate and affordable housing.

### **What are the benefits of a LEED home?**

LEED provides homeowners with the knowledge that they have a high-performing green home that costs less to operate. LEED homes offer:

- Economic benefits such as lower energy and water bills
- Environmental benefits like reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Quality of life benefits like improved comfort and less maintenance
- Health benefits such as reduced exposure to mold, mildew and other indoor toxins
- Third-party verification that a home has been inspected, performance-tested, and certified to meet LEED green building criteria

### **How does LEED for Homes work?**

To become certified, projects must meet all prerequisites and a minimum number of points within seven credit areas: location and linkages, sustainable sites, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and homeowner awareness. The number of points the project earns determines the level of LEED certification the project receives. LEED homes are rated by LEED for Homes Providers – local organizations with demonstrated experience and expertise in their region's market. Providers are responsible for training, coordinating, and overseeing LEED qualified inspectors and builder support staff.

### **How much will it cost to earn a LEED for Homes certification?**

Certification costs range from \$500 to \$3,000 per home depending on the size of the home, the LEED rating level pursued (e.g., Certified, Silver, Gold, Platinum) and other factors. Costs may be offset in some areas by incentives offered by local utilities, state energy organizations or corporate sponsors.

### **As a builder, how can I participate in LEED for Homes?**

Builders interested in participating in LEED for Homes should contact a local LEED for Homes Provider for specifics regarding their registration and participation in the program. The program is currently in its pilot phase, and USGBC is looking for pilot projects from a diverse group of professional builders representing different price points and geographic regions to test and provide feedback on the LEED for Homes Rating System. Pilot registrations will be received until the program is fully launched in Summer 2007. Production builders and affordable housing groups are encouraged to apply. To find a provider near you visit the USGBC Web site, [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes).

### **How can my organization become a LEED for Homes Provider?**

USGBC currently has 12 LEED for Homes Providers who are serving some of the country's leading housing markets during the pilot – or demonstration – phase of the program. We anticipate recruiting additional LEED for Homes Providers in late 2006, and subsequently on an

## Fact Sheet

### About LEED for Homes

---

annual or semi-annual basis, as demand dictates. USGBC will post calls for providers on our Web site and through various e-mail announcements and updates. (See “How can I stay up to date on the progress of LEED for Homes” below.) Prospective providers must undergo a rigorous selection process based on their demonstrated outstanding abilities and proven records in supporting builders in the construction of high performance, sustainable homes. For more information [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes).

#### **As a home buyer, how can I find a LEED home?**

Home buyers who want to find a custom builder or a home that has already been certified should contact a LEED for Homes Provider. To find a provider near you, visit the USGBC Web site, [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes).

#### **When will LEED for Homes be widely available?**

LEED for Homes is projected to launch in Summer 2007. At the end of the pilot phase, the rating system will be refined based on lessons learned during the pilot, posted for public comment, and balloted by USGBC's membership prior to release.

#### **How can I stay up to date on the progress of LEED for Homes?**

USGBC members interested in LEED for Homes Committee activities can join the LEED for Homes Corresponding Committee e-mail listserv; sign up online in the ‘Your Account’ section of the USGBC Web site. Corresponding committee members receive committee meeting minutes, periodic updates and announcements.

If you are not USGBC member, you can join a public announcement distribution list by request via [homes@committees.usgbc.org](mailto:homes@committees.usgbc.org).

#### **Where can I find out more about green home building?**

Green home building resources are widely available on the Internet, and many local green home building programs (listed at [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes)) offer training and educational information. USGBC is also in the process of developing a new online education resource on green home building. Details will be available soon.

#### **Where can I learn more about LEED and USGBC?**

USGBC has a variety of resources for you to get started with LEED for Homes:

- **Visit the Web site:** Go to [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed) to learn more about the LEED for Homes Rating System, download case studies and more.
- **Become a member:** Encourage your company to join USGBC. USGBC members are not only recognized leaders in supporting a better built environment; member company employees have access to USGBC resources, can participate in committees and member circles, and enjoy a wide array of discounts on USGBC publications, programs and services.
- **Get involved with your local chapter:** USGBC chapters routinely host informative presentations and are a great way to connect with other professionals in your region who have experience implementing LEED. Find the USGBC chapter nearest you at [www.usgbc.org/chapters](http://www.usgbc.org/chapters).
- **Contact USGBC:** For questions related to LEED, educational offerings, membership, or chapters, e-mail [info@usgbc.org](mailto:info@usgbc.org) or call 202-828-7422.