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# INFORMATION

## The LEED® for Homes Rating System

LEED for Homes is a voluntary program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to promote the transformation of the mainstream home building industry toward high-performance, sustainable practices. The LEED for Homes Rating System provides a tool for certifying homes that are designed and built to be energy, water and resource efficient, and healthy for their occupants. The program recognizes and rewards top performing new homes in terms of efficiency and environmental stewardship. LEED can be applied to single and multi family homes and is intended for both market-rate and affordable housing.

The LEED for Homes program is currently in the pilot phase of development and is projected to launch in Summer 2007.

### Numbers (as of November 2006)

- 200 registered builders currently participating in the LEED for Homes pilot program.
- 1600 homes projected to pursue LEED certification across the U.S.
- 25 LEED homes certified
- 12 LEED for Homes Providers providing local technical and verification support services to builders, as well as education and marketing assistance.
- 10—15 additional LEED for Homes providers in early 2007.

### LEED for Homes Timeline

*August 2005* The Pilot demonstration phase of LEED for Homes launched in 12 regional markets.

*February 2006* The first LEED home certified.

*Spring 2007* LEED for Homes to go through two public comment periods, during which USGBC will accept comments via the Web Site, [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

*Summer 2007* LEED for Homes to be launched on a national scale after a member ballot.

### Unique Features of the LEED for Homes Program

- **High Standards:** Homes are third-party inspected, performance tested and certified to perform better than conventional homes. The LEED certification ensures that the home has been designed to meet the highest standards and is operating exactly the way it is supposed to.
- **Delivery System:** The LEED for Homes program is supported by a local network of LEED for Homes Provider, and then proceed through the certification process with their providers assistance. All providers' qualifications are thoroughly reviewed by the USGBC to ensure that they have outstanding abilities and a proven record of supporting builders in the construction of high performance, sustainable homes.
- **Location and Linkages credit category:** The new Location and Linkage category in the LEED for Homes pilot rating system includes a credit for locating a home within a LEED for Neighborhood Development project, as well as credits that recognize the environmental benefits of locating a home with access to existing infrastructure, amenities and public transportation.
- **Homeowner Awareness Category:** In this credit, LEED recognizes the importance of homeowner / tenant education to ensure the long-term performance of the LEED home. A homeowner's manual provides basic information on proper maintenance of the home's LEED—related equipment and features.
- **New Credit on Durability:** LEED for Homes rewards builders that apply a design and construction process focused on durability measures that may reduce call-backs, increase service life and improve homeowner satisfaction. The credit requires builders to identify and address various risks associated with homes such as health and safety, regional moisture and climate issues, interior moisture sources, pest management and uncontrolled heat and air flows.

## About LEED for Homes Affordable Housing Initiative

### **Benefits of a LEED Home**

The benefits of a LEED home for home buyers, relative to a comparable code-built home, may include:

- Healthier, more comfortable living environment
- 30—40% lower utility bills
- Higher resale value
- Lower ownership and maintenance costs
- More durable home design and materials
- Better air filtration
- More efficient use of resources
- 30—50% environmentally preferred building materials
- Non-toxic pest management
- 30% less storm water run-off (reduces pollution of local watersheds)

### **Educational Program**

USGBC is developing an education program for LEED for Homes. USGBC has several highly qualified LEED for Homes faculty who will deliver these trainings.

- **Introductory Seminar:** A 2 hour online course that provides a general overview of the LEED for Homes program.
- **Intermediate Training:** A full day workshop for home builders, and other members of the green home building industry that explains how to effectively use the LEED for Homes Rating System.
- **Advanced Training:** A full day workshop for LEED for Homes Providers, raters and designers that explains best practices for designing, building, documenting and certifying a LEED home.

### **For more information on LEED for Homes**

- Visit the USGBC Web site at [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes)
- To participate in the pilot, builders and prospective homeowners should contact their local LEED for Homes Provider. A list of providers is available on the LEED for Homes web site at [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes)