

## Earn Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) Certification through EcoLogic Solutions' DEEP GREEN™ cleaning program

Since 1998, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a sustainability coalition of government officials, prominent architects and designers, industry leaders and nonprofit organizations have been developing The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.™ LEED certification is the nationally accepted (and often mandatory) standard for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings.

LEED is the most recognized green building rating to the general public and press. Federal agencies agree: both the Environmental Protection Agency and the General Services Agency state that LEED is the most credible green standard.

Buildings receive certification by meeting specific prerequisites and achieving performance points in five indicators of sustainability: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. With EcoLogic Solutions' consultation and DEEP GREEN™ cleaning program, your building can earn 14 points needed towards receiving LEED-EB (existing buildings) certification.

- 2 points for a green site and exterior management plan (sustainable sites category)
- 3 points for using green cleaning products and materials (materials and resources category)
- 3 points recycling (materials and resources category)
- 1 point for green cleaning of building entryways and corridors (indoor air quality category)
- 1 point for greening the janitorial closet (indoor air quality category)
- 1 point for a green cleaning policy (indoor air quality category)
- 1 point for green cleaning equipment (indoor air quality category)
- 1 point for upgrading cleaning systems from traditional chemicals to DEEP GREEN™ formulations (innovation category)

LEED certified buildings are rated as Basic Certified, Gold, Silver and Platinum. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that all of its new buildings achieve at least Gold certification. Existing buildings are rated according to these point totals:

- Certified 32–39 points
- Silver 40–47 points
- Gold 48–63 points
- Platinum 64–85 points

Since the DEEP GREEN™ cleaning program from EcoLogic Solutions can provide over 40% of the points needed to earn certification, a successful green cleaning program is one of the most cost effective means to gain a significant number of points. Furthermore, proper green chemical

### **In the United States, buildings account for:**

- 36 percent of total energy use and 65 percent of electricity consumption
- 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30 percent of raw materials use
- 30 percent of waste output (136 million tons annually)
- 12 percent of potable water consumption

Source: U.S. Green Building Council

management systems from EcoLogic Solutions are essential for LEED-NC (newly constructed buildings) to re-certify under LEED-EB.<sup>1</sup>

During the initial application process for LEED-EB, buildings must supply three recent months of performance statistics and extrapolate the data for one year. This means that existing buildings must implement the DEEP GREEN™ cleaning program at least three months before attempting certification. Here is the timetable to achieve LEED-EB certification.<sup>2</sup>

1. Register the building on the USGBC website [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed). There is a fee, \$450 for members, \$600 for nonmembers. Send a check with the certification fee and the following proof of performance information on two compact discs to the USGBC Certification Manager in Washington, DC.
  - LEED-EB Version 2.0 Letter Templates
  - Performance Data
  - Overall project narrative including at least three project highlights
  - Drawings and photos illustrative of the project: site plan, typical floor plan typical building section, typical or primary elevation, photos or renderings of whole project
2. LEED reviews the proposal within 30 days of receipt of materials and explains which credits the building can expect to earn.
3. The building's project team has 30 days to provide a Supplementary Submittal to prove which other credits should be earned.
4. Within three weeks, the LEED-EB Review board reaches a decision about the certification rating.
5. The building project has 30 days to accept the rating and label the building LEED-EB certified.
6. The project may appeal to earn more credits at \$500 per credit after the final review within 30 days.

Please see these links to learn more about LEED-EB.

Guidelines for LEED-EB version 2.

<http://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=913>

List of Federal, State and local incentives to certify with LEED

<https://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=691>

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<sup>1</sup> Unlike LEED-NC (new construction), which rewards points for green innovations during the design phase for new buildings, LEED-EB (existing buildings) measures actual building performance. New green buildings are expected to enroll in LEED-EB immediately after earning certification for LEED-NC.

<sup>2</sup> LEED-EB is the re-certification process for both LEED-NC and LEED-EB operations. The performance period during which points are earned is the time from the last certification. The USGBC recommends annual re-certification with LEED-EB to properly monitor sustainability.