



Green Matters

Actions today for a healthier tomorrow

March 10, 2017

Who's in the LEED?



Because each project is different, LEED standards are somewhat flexible. Credits that can be earned fall into four categories: sustainable sites, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and innovation and design process.

The total number of LEED credits earned during a project place a building in one of the four ascending levels of certification: **Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum**, each attaining a higher number of credits.

While getting a LEED certification can cost extra money and effort up front, projects typically see significant long-term savings relating to energy use, facilities upkeep, and tenant retention, as well as improved building air quality and quantity of daylight.

As an extra incentive in Oregon, buildings obtaining LEED Silver and above can earn a 35% Business Energy Tax Credit.

Bringing it all back home, our own Portland Building Reconstruction project will be aiming for LEED Gold certification.

Find out more at:
portlandoregon.gov/portlandbuilding
and usgbc.org/leed



We've all seen or heard about LEED ratings, but what do they really mean?

Essentially, LEED certification verifies that a building has been assessed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as having met a certain set of criteria and standards related to sustainability.

A LEED certified building has sufficiently met environmentally friendly construction procedures and sustainable design concepts that promote a sustainable trend in the market. But where did this certification come from?

The LEED program started in 1994 as a one-standard certification, and has since introduced four new versions, v1-4, with the latest appearing in 2016.

LEED is a voluntary program, and according to the USGBC was developed as a "consensus-based, market-driven rating system to accelerate the development and implementation of green building practices."

For example, credits can be earned

by using sustainable materials and designs, reusing existing structures or building materials, brownfield redevelopment, or by hiring contracts that emphasize sustainable practices.

For a building to get LEED certification, it must earn a certain number of credits, awarded based on environmentally friendly actions taken before, during, and after the design and build process.

Green Team Trivia
WIN A COFFEE TUMBLER
First five correct answers win!

Question: What are some of the alternatives to K-Cups listed in the last issue?
(see last issue!)

Email guesses to:
ethan.cirno@portlandoregon.gov

