

**LEED v5.0**

LEEDing the Way, Again

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# Introduction

In the ongoing effort to advance accountability in sustainable design, the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) completed the approval process for implementation of the latest LEED rating system, LEED v5.0, on March 28, 2025. The primary focus of LEED v5.0 is to remain at the forefront of the built environment by addressing three essential elements: decarbonization, quality of life, and ecological conservation and restoration. The ultimate goal continues to be the delivery of real-world, positive environmental and social impact through a comprehensive certification process that reinforces LEED's role as a globally recognized leader in sustainability.

## Three Key Elements

LEED v5.0 has been updated so that every prerequisite and credit is directly connected to these three central elements. The rating system has also been reorganized to ensure that each project pursuing LEED certification can clearly define and demonstrate its sustainable design strategies and outcomes.

### Decarbonization

The LEED v5.0 rating system is structured to certify that a project is progressing toward a near-zero-carbon outcome. Milestone reductions are identified for operational, embodied, refrigerant, and transportation-related emissions.

### Quality of Life

By reducing carbon levels in constructed projects to a near-zero range, LEED v5.0 supports improvements in occupant health, well-being, resilience, and equity. In turn, the surrounding communities benefit from built environments that are both more people-friendly and environmentally responsible.

### Ecological Conservation and Restoration

A long-term benefit of near-net-zero projects is the reduction of environmental degradation and the support of ecosystem restoration. LEED v5.0 promotes design strategies that help ensure buildings exist within a balanced and resilient natural environment.

## Schedule and Conclusion

### Schedule

- ☐ Project registration for LEED v5.0 became available on April 28, 2025.
- ☐ LEED v4.1 and LEED v5.0 will run concurrently until the sunset date for v4.1.
- ☐ Project registration for LEED v4.1 will close on June 30, 2026.
- ☐ The sunset date for LEED v4.1 is on June 30, 2032.

### Conclusion

LEED v5.0 represents a significant evolution of the certification process as the building industry advances toward a net-zero built environment. By integrating carbon mitigation, human well-being, and climate resilience, this new rating system will result in projects that demonstrate measurable, meaningful achievements in sustainable design and construction.



# Get in Touch

We'd love to hear from you. Whether you have questions, need support, or simply want to learn more about us, our team is here to help.

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