

# LEED Consulting

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The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is the nation's foremost coalition of leaders from every sector of the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. Their more than 7,500 member organizations and network of 75 regional chapters are united to advance their mission of transforming the building industry to sustainability. The USGBC has created a nationally recognized certification process for evaluating sustainable and high performance buildings, a program called "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design", commonly known by its acronym LEED. Council members work together to develop the resources, policy guidance, and educational and marketing tools that support the adoption of sustainable building.

The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. LEED provides a roadmap for measuring and documenting success for every building type and phase of a building lifecycle.

### Why sustainability?

*Because of the negative effects of unsustainable development.* Ongoing energy use in buildings represents one of the most significant environmental impacts of human infrastructure development. Energy use in commercial buildings is characterized by patterns of excessive waste and worsening pollution and damage to the global environment.

*Because of the positive impacts of sustainable development.* For developers and owners who want to build sustainably and maximize both economic and environmental performance, the following benefits present themselves:

### Environmental benefits

- Enhancement and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Conservation of natural resources
- Improved air and water quality
- Reduction of solid waste

### Economic benefits

- Reduced operating costs
- Enhanced asset value and profits
- Improved staff comfort, satisfaction and productivity
- Decreased workers compensation and health insurance costs
- Optimization of life-cycle economic performance
- Positive publicity

### Community benefits

- Improved indoor air quality, thermal, and acoustic environments
- Enhanced occupant comfort, well-being, physical and emotional and health
- Reduced strain on local infrastructure
- Positive contribution to and partnership with the larger community
- Positive contribution to overall quality of life

**Our firm has been a member of the USGBC since 2002, and designs and manages the construction of projects that are pursuing a LEED™ rating. Professionals on our staff are LEED-accredited designers.**

