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## Expanded LEED Study Guide Released

The U.S. Green Building Council's Colorado Chapter has released its LEED Professional Accreditation Guide and Practice Exam, based on the LEED New Construction Version 2.2 rating system.

This revised and expanded study guide educates accreditation candidates on sustainable design and features a thorough practice exam, designed to reflect version 2.2's content and more rigorous questions. The new version also features LEED-EB and LEED-CI sections with 20 quiz questions for each product. The Colorado guide is recommended by USGBC National at their LEED Technical Review preparatory workshops.

You can automatically download the table of contents for the study guide [here](#). The entire study guide and practice exam will be available for downloading soon. Until then, email [guide@usbgccolorado.org](mailto:guide@usbgccolorado.org) to order a copy.

## Green Buildings Offer Best Opportunity to Protect and Enhance Environment

According to a new report two years in the making, issued by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), "promoting the green design, construction, renovation and operation of buildings could cut the North American greenhouse gas emissions that are fueling climate change more deeply, quickly and cheaply than any other available measure."

Speaking of the report, CEC Executive Director Adrián Vázquez said: "*Improving our built environment is probably the single greatest opportunity to protect and enhance the natural environment. This report is a blueprint for dramatic environmental progress throughout North America - mostly using the tools and technology we have on hand today ... green building represents some of the ripest 'low-hanging fruit' for achieving significant reductions in climate change emissions.*"

To read the report, [Green Building in North America: Opportunities and Challenges](#), as well as comments about the report, click [here](#).

The CEC is an international organization created by the United States, Canada and

Mexico to address regional environmental concerns and to promote the effective enforcement of environmental law.

## Geothermal System Saves Energy

Ohio State University Extension's new 4-H Center represents a comprehensive effort to produce a smaller environmental footprint. The \$10.5 million, 46,000-square-foot Center cuts heating and cooling costs with an innovative geothermal system. The system pumps 5,000 gallons of water through a pipe loop that stretches through 72 holes drilled 280 feet into the ground to heat and cool the building.

The system, which heats the building in the winter and will cool it on hot summer days, relies on the steady temperature of water stored beneath the ground. The incorporation of reflective windows and roofing support the geothermal system's cooling abilities.

The building is expected to use just over 280,000 gallons of water annually - half of comparable buildings - and keep electricity costs down to \$32,000 per year.

The 4-H Center is just one of a growing number of examples that link construction with conservation. According to the USGBC, the number of green buildings constructed using LEED requirements has grown from 38 projects in 2002 to over 10,000 this year. Read more about the details of the innovative 4-H Center [here](#).

## Celebrate Earth Day April 22

Major day-long events scheduled for Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> will be the prelude to the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day celebration. Spearheaded by [Earth Day Network](#), this year's events include appearances by elected officials and candidates, community speakers, and A-list musicians and celebrities. The "Make Noise" campaign will encourage government leaders to address global warming and includes a petition asking congress to take immediate action to solve the climate crisis. Organizers hope to generate 1 million phone calls to lawmakers as part of the "Make Noise" campaign.

Raleigh's Earth day events will take place a day earlier, on Saturday, April 19th. See a summary of the day's activities [here](#).

For complete information on planning your own Earth Day event, click [here](#).

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