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LEED 2009 Aims to Speed Changes That Can Rapidly Impact Environment

The restructuring of the LEED Green Building Rating System allows it to be more nimble, according to Scot Horst, Chair of the LEED Steering Committee. USGBC aims to give design teams more choices for meeting the rating systems' goals and to reward building projects that address pressing issues such as energy and water efficiency.

An increase in the number of credits to choose from will address past criticism of LEED, according to industry expert Jerry Yudelson. Buildings can earn almost twice as many points for energy optimization and water efficiency as in the previous version of LEED. Seven points can be earned for onsite renewable energy, compared to three points in the previous version of LEED. The new version also awards many more points to buildings that are located within easy access to public transportation.

Yudelson, the author of seven books on green buildings and green development, spells out the positive changes in the LEED system to take place next year, including credit points required for certification, the new consistent 100 point scale, the weighting of the credits and region-specific credits. Read his guide to the all new standard [here](#).

Green Building Certification Institute Answers LEED 2009 Questions

How will LEED 2009 affect the LEED Accredited Professional exam? When will the LEED Accredited Professional exam change? Will there be new USGBC workshops for LEED 2009? Should I wait for the new exam or take it now?

If you have been considering pursuing a LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) certification, these questions may be uppermost in your mind. The LEED AP credential indicates that you possess the knowledge and skills to facilitate the LEED certification process. Building industry professionals who can demonstrate a thorough understanding of green building and the [LEED® Green Building Rating](#)

[System™](#) can elect to sit for the LEED Professional Accreditation exam.

LEED Professional Accreditation is a voluntary designation achieved by over 50,000 individuals who have passed the exam. The Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) was established as a separate entity, supported by the U.S. Green Building Council, to administer credentialing programs related to green building practice. Read their Frequently Asked Questions regarding the impact of LEED 2009 on credentialing [here](#).

U.S. Green Building Council Offers Up LEED 2009

The USGBC announced the proposed LEED 2009 system of certification is available for review. Introduced in 2000, the LEED Green Building Rating System inspired a revolution in the way offices, schools, hospitals and homes are built. It was developed by defining a consensus metric for leadership in green building and is overseen by USGBC volunteer committees.

The 2009 version, dubbed LEED Version 3.0, offers an expanded third-party certification program, significant enhancements to LEED Online, and weightings of LEED credits to ensure that highest priority practices, such as energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions, receive the most points. Read the USGBC Press Release [here](#).

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