

LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE FLASH CARDS

288+ key terminology flash cards!



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U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

The nonprofit membership organization that develops the LEED rating systems and publishes official LEED Interpretations as addenda.

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Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)

The organization that administers LEED project certification and the LEED professional credential exams, including technical review of project applications.

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LEED

USGBC's green building rating system used to design, construct, and operate projects and to recognize performance with a certification level.

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LEED v5

The current version of the commercial LEED rating systems (BD+C, ID+C, and O+M) and the basis of the current LEED Green Associate exam.

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Credit

An optional LEED requirement. Meeting a credit earns points that count toward the certification level.

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Prerequisite

A required LEED item. Prerequisites must be met for certification but do not add points.

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Point

The unit earned by achieving credits. Points are added to determine the certification level on a 110-point scale.

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110-point scale

LEED v5 BD+C New Construction and Core and Shell each offer 110 possible points across the credit categories.

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Minimum Program Requirements (MPRs)

The minimum characteristics a project must meet before it is appropriate to pursue LEED, including location, boundary, and size rules.

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Permanent location on existing land

An MPR condition: a certifying building project must be in a permanent location on existing land.

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Reasonable LEED boundaries

An MPR condition: the project must use a reasonable LEED project boundary.

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Project size requirements

An MPR condition: the project must comply with the size requirements that apply to the chosen rating system.

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LEED project boundary

The defined boundary of the area included in the LEED application. It must be reasonable under the MPRs and is the basis for what the rating system evaluates.

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LEED for Building Design and Construction (BD+C)

The rating-system family for whole buildings and whole additions that are new construction or major renovations.

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LEED for Interior Design and Construction (ID+C)

The rating-system family for interior renovation projects that do not include the exterior shell or site work.

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LEED for Operations and Maintenance (O+M)

The rating-system family for existing whole buildings that have been fully operational and occupied for at least one year, focused on performance.

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New Construction and Major Renovations

The LEED v5 BD+C adaptation for whole buildings or additions where at least 60 percent of the gross floor area is complete.

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Core and Shell Development

The LEED v5 BD+C adaptation for whole buildings where at least 40 percent of the gross floor area is incomplete, meaning basic finishes or essential systems needed to occupy the space are not yet in the contracted scope.

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Commercial Interiors

The LEED v5 ID+C adaptation for interior renovations of commercial spaces, including the movable furnishings, fixtures, and equipment needed for regular operations.

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Existing Buildings

The LEED v5 O+M adaptation for whole buildings already in use, emphasizing measured operational performance.

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Major renovation

Extensive work on the interior plus the exterior shell, primary structure, core MEP and service systems, and/or the site, typically requiring a new certificate of occupancy before the space is reoccupied.

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40/60 rule

Selection guidance: do not use a rating system that fits less than 40 percent of gross floor area; use one that fits more than 60 percent; between 40 and 60 percent, the team must choose the most applicable system. The whole gross floor area is certified under one rating system.

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Gross floor area (GFA)

The floor area used to apply the 40/60 selection rule and to calculate certification fees. The entire gross floor area of the project is covered by the chosen rating system.

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Furnishings, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E)

The movable items a commercial-interiors team installs so the space can operate as intended. Under ID+C, a space without its intended FF&E is treated as incomplete.

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Rating system selection

Choosing the single most appropriate LEED rating system and adaptation before registration, using USGBC selection guidance and, when needed, a GBCI consultation.

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LEED Online

One of GBCI's platforms where projects register, assemble the team, and file commercial credit interpretation requests.

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Arc

GBCI's performance platform used to register LEED v5 commercial projects and to help projects share ongoing energy and water data.

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Project registration

The step of submitting project information, paying the registration fee, and agreeing to the certification agreement so the application can be built. Early registration is encouraged, before design for BD+C and ID+C.

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Owner

The person or entity with legal authority to meet the LEED certification agreement. GBCI treats the owner as having ultimate control of the application.

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Project Administrator

The team member who manages the LEED application, assigns credit work, checks that the submittal is complete, and accepts review results. The person who registers the project starts in this role.

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Certification level

The tier a project earns from its point total: Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.

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LEED Certified

The certification level earned with 40 to 49 points.

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LEED Silver

The certification level earned with 50 to 59 points.

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LEED Gold

The certification level earned with 60 to 79 points.

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LEED Platinum

The certification level earned with 80 or more points. LEED v5 projects must also meet extra Platinum requirements.

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LEED v5 Platinum requirements

Beyond 80 points, v5 BD+C Platinum requires set achievement on electrification, enhanced energy efficiency, 100 percent renewable energy from the allowed tiers, and a 20 percent embodied-carbon reduction.

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Scorecard

The project's record of attempted and achieved prerequisites and credits, including the point total and certification level.

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Impact areas

The three cross-cutting results LEED v5 organizes work around: decarbonization, quality of life, and ecological conservation and restoration.

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Decarbonization

The v5 impact area aimed at cutting operational, embodied, refrigerant, and transportation emissions.

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Quality of life

The v5 impact area focused on human health, equity, comfort, and the experience of people who use and are affected by the project.

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Ecological conservation and restoration

The v5 impact area focused on protecting and restoring ecosystems, habitat, and site ecology.

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Credit category

A group of related prerequisites and credits. v5 categories include IP, LT, SS, WE, EA, MR, EQ, and PR.

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Synergy

The idea, tested on the Green Associate exam, that strategies in one LEED category can help achieve goals in another.

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Third-party verification

Independent review of the project application by GBCI, rather than self-certification by the project team.

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Preliminary review

GBCI's first technical review. It reports which prerequisites and credits are awarded and which need more information, typically within 20 to 25 business days.

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Final review

An optional second review in which the team submits clarifications or amendments. GBCI then marks prerequisites and credits awarded or denied.

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Supplemental (appeal) review

An optional further review, for a fee, used to add information, change the application, or attempt credits not previously submitted. There is no cap on the number of these reviews.

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Standard review

The path in which the full application, all prerequisites and credits, is submitted once the project is complete.

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Split review

An optional BD+C and ID+C path that submits design-phase credits and prerequisites first and construction-phase items after construction.

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Expedited review

A paid option, requested in advance, that can cut a review phase from about 20-25 business days to about 10-12, if GBCI has capacity.

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Precertification

An optional early review of intended strategies, available for a fee, to see which credits a project is likely to earn. The commercial guide states that precertification is valid for three years.

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Recertification

A later certification that confirms ongoing performance. LEED O+M certification must be renewed on the cycle stated in the certification guide (three years, or five years for LEED v4).

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Performance period

The measured operating period used for O+M. LEED v5 O+M uses a 12-month performance period unless a credit lists an exception.

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Credit Interpretation Ruling (CIR)

A project-specific ruling on how a credit or prerequisite applies. It is not precedent-setting and may be used only by the project that requested it.

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LEED Interpretation

An official, precedent-setting answer published by USGBC as addenda. Later registrants must follow it; earlier projects may choose to.

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Addenda

Official updates to LEED requirements. LEED Interpretations are issued as addenda, and exams are checked against addenda so questions stay current.

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Addenda database

USGBC's searchable public collection of published LEED Interpretations and related addenda.

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GBCI verification protocols

The procedures GBCI uses to check that a submitted application complies with the selected rating system.

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Review Challenge Policy

GBCI's process for challenging the accuracy of a review decision about materials the team has already submitted, after ordinary support channels are exhausted.

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Certification Challenge Policy

GBCI's process that can revisit a certification for integrity. A challenge may be started by GBCI or a third party within 18 months of certification, and documentation must be kept for two years.

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Sunset date

The certification close date for a rating-system version. After registration closes, projects must submit for certification by this date to use that version.

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Five-year energy and water reporting

After accepting certification, projects must share whole-project energy and water use with USGBC for five years, starting at acceptance or typical occupancy, whichever comes first.

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LEED project directory

USGBC's public listing of projects that are not marked private, including certification level, points, scorecard, and rating system.

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Private project

A project that opts out of the public directory and publicity. Private certified projects are not authorized to use the LEED certification logos.

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Consensus-based development

How LEED versions are created: a consensus committee, a ballot, and ratification by a vote of the USGBC membership before publication.

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LEED Green Associate

The credential for people who understand current green-building principles and LEED v5 well enough to support LEED project work. The approved title is “LEED Green Associate”; “LEED GA” is not an approved abbreviation.

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Credential Maintenance Program (CMP)

The requirement that a LEED Green Associate earn and report 15 continuing-education hours every two years to keep the credential.

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Passing score

The Green Associate exam is reported on a scale from 125 to 200. A score of 170 or higher is required to pass.

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Recall, application, and analysis

The three cognitive levels of Green Associate questions: remembering facts, using them on a new problem, and breaking a problem into parts to judge how the parts interact.

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Scored and unscored questions

The 100-question exam mixes scored items with unscored items used to test future questions. Candidates are not told which is which.

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Integrative Process, Planning, and Assessments (IP)

The v5 credit category for early assessments and integrative planning. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 6 questions.

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Location and Transportation (LT)

The v5 credit category for where the project is built and how people get there. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 9 questions.

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Sustainable Sites (SS)

The v5 credit category for site assessment, habitat, open space, rainwater, heat, and light. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 8 questions.

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Water Efficiency (WE)

The v5 credit category for reducing and tracking potable water use. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 10 questions.

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Energy and Atmosphere (EA)

The v5 credit category for energy efficiency, renewables, refrigerants, and operational carbon. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 15 questions.

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Materials and Resources (MR)

The v5 credit category for embodied carbon, product choice, reuse, and waste. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 11 questions.

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Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ)

The v5 credit category for indoor air, light, sound, thermal conditions, and inclusion. On the Green Associate exam it is the knowledge domain with 11 questions.

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Project Priorities (PR)

The v5 credit category that awards points for regional, project-type, exemplary, pilot, and innovation strategies, plus a LEED AP on the team.

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LEED Process

The Green Associate knowledge domain, 15 questions, covering how USGBC and GBCI work, how rating systems are structured, and how certification is earned.

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Climate Resilience Assessment

A required IP prerequisite to identify current and projected natural hazards at the site, rate risk, and name priority hazards the design will address.

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Human Impact Assessment

A required IP prerequisite to understand the local community, workforce, and supply chain, including demographics, nearby infrastructure, health, and equity issues.

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Carbon Assessment

A required IP prerequisite to understand long-term direct and indirect emissions from on-site combustion, grid electricity, refrigerants, and embodied carbon.

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Tenant Guidelines

A Core and Shell IP prerequisite that tells tenants how to carry the base building's sustainable features through their fit-out and toward their own LEED certification.

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Integrative Design Process

An IP credit for early, cross-discipline analysis of how systems affect each other so the team can address decarbonization, quality of life, and ecology together.

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Green Leases

A Core and Shell IP credit that uses the lease to require tenants to finish the sustainable design and construction the base building started.

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Early assessment

The exam-outline practice of assessing the project early, before major design decisions, so later credits are chosen with those findings in mind.

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Systems thinking

Looking at a project as interacting systems, rather than isolated credits, so a choice in one area is checked for effects on others.

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Life-cycle cost analysis

An integrative-process tool that compares options by their costs over time, not only by the first cost to build.

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Integrative project team

The cross-functional group the exam expects on a LEED project, such as the owner, architect, engineers, contractor, landscape architect, facility manager, consultants, technicians, and community stakeholders.

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Community stakeholders

People in the surrounding community who are affected by the project and are named in the handbook as part of the integrative team.

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Facility manager

The operator of the building. Involving this role early helps design decisions that the operations team can actually maintain.

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Shared socioeconomic pathways

The IPCC emissions scenarios a climate-resilience assessment must identify when it describes future hazard projections.

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Exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity

Three factors the climate-resilience assessment uses, with vulnerability and overall risk, to describe how a hazard could affect the project.

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Priority hazards

At least two site hazards, chosen from the climate assessment, that the team commits to address with design strategies.

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Operations Assessment and Policy

A required LEED v5 O+M integrative prerequisite used to assess how the existing building is operated and to set an operations policy.

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Current Facilities Requirements and O+M Plan

A required LEED v5 O+M integrative prerequisite covering the owner's current facility requirements and the operations and maintenance plan.

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Operational Planning for Resilience

A LEED v5 O+M credit for planning how operations will respond to climate and natural-hazard risks.

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Worker Safety and Training

A LEED v5 O+M credit addressing training and safety for the people who operate and maintain the building.

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Sensitive Land Protection

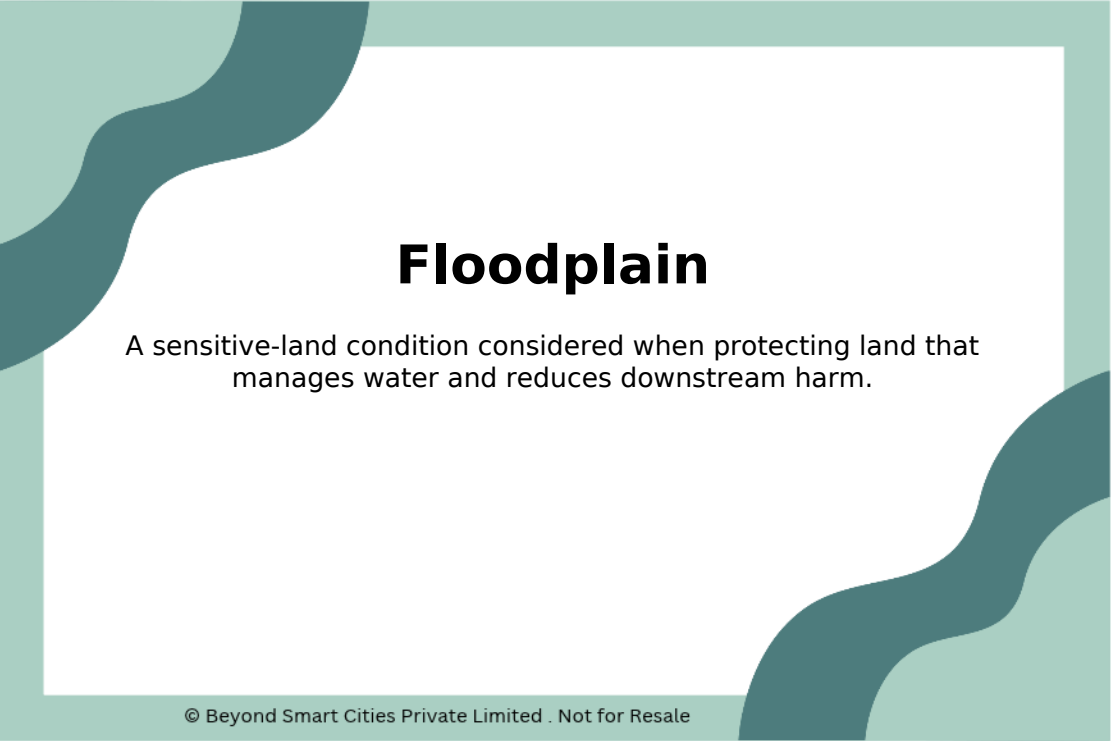
An LT credit that avoids building on environmentally sensitive land that provides ecosystem services.

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Prime farmland

A sensitive-land type that LEED site-selection strategies seek to avoid developing.

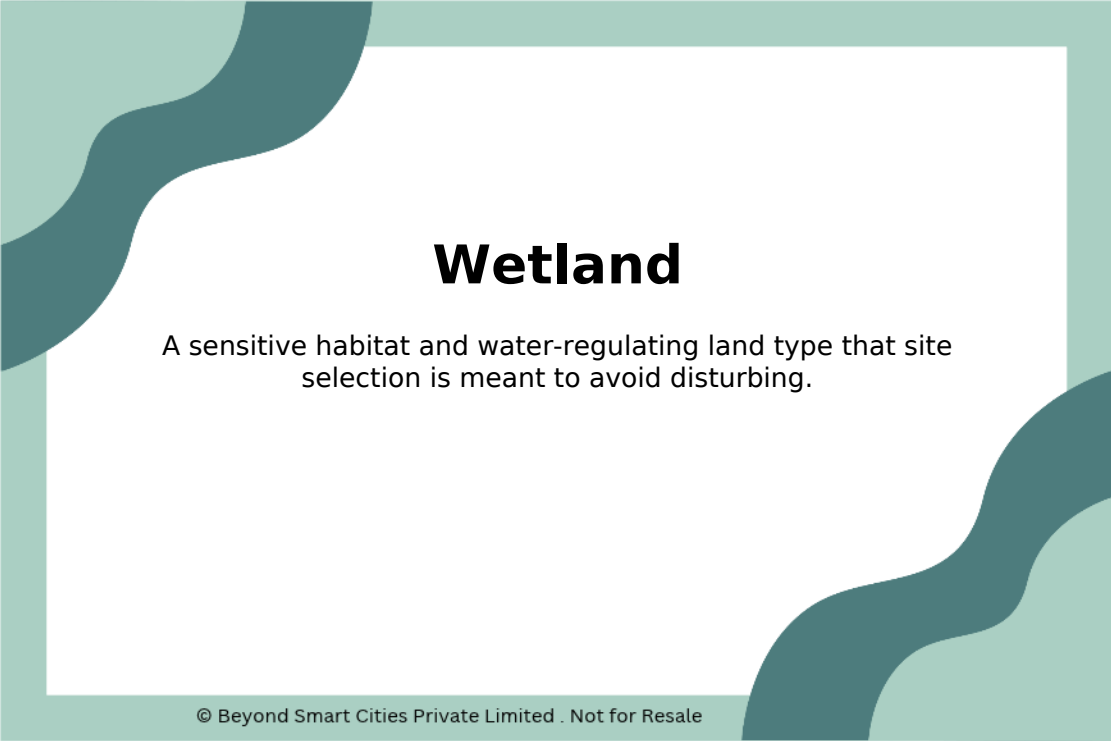
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Floodplain

A sensitive-land condition considered when protecting land that manages water and reduces downstream harm.

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Wetland

A sensitive habitat and water-regulating land type that site selection is meant to avoid disturbing.

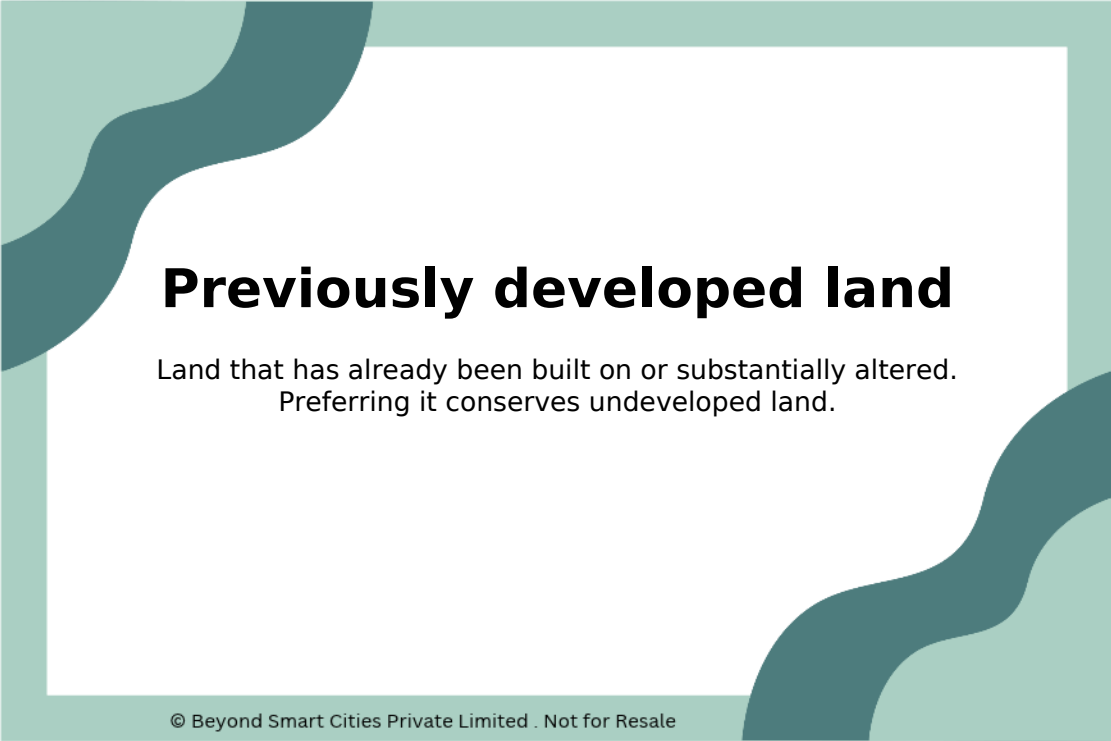
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Brownfield

A previously used site with real or perceived contamination. The Green Associate outline includes targeting previously developed and brownfield sites.

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Previously developed land

Land that has already been built on or substantially altered. Preferring it conserves undeveloped land.

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Equitable Development

An LT credit supporting community economic and social vitality, locating homes and jobs closer together, and siting projects in places with development challenges.

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Compact and Connected Development

An LT credit that favors sites with existing infrastructure, walkability, and shorter vehicle trips.

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Infill development

Building on vacant or underused land within an already developed area, a strategy recognized under compact development.

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Walk Score

A walkability measure used with proximity to uses when documenting compact and connected development.

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Diverse uses

A mix of nearby everyday destinations that shortens trips and supports connected development.

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Transportation Demand Management

An LT credit that reduces automobile impacts by supporting other ways to travel and by cutting vehicle distance traveled.

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Transportation Demand Management Assessment

The study used to understand trip patterns and choose demand-management strategies for the project.

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Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

A measure of how far vehicles travel. The Green Associate outline treats reducing VMT as a transportation goal.

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Commuting emissions

Greenhouse gases from how occupants travel to the project, called out in the exam outline under transportation demand management.

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Ridesharing

Sharing vehicle trips, listed in the exam outline as one way to reduce single-occupant commuting.

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Alternative transportation

Travel modes other than driving alone, including walking, bicycling, transit, and similar options named in the transportation outline.

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Alternative fuel vehicles

Vehicles that do not rely only on conventional fuels. The exam outline includes them under transportation demand management.

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Bicycle network

Connected bicycle routes that make biking to the project a practical mode.

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Bicycle storage

Secure parking for bicycles, provided so occupants can choose biking.

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Reduced parking footprint

Providing less parking than a conventional baseline so land and driving demand are reduced. The exam outline names this strategy.

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Electric Vehicles

An LT credit that supports electric-vehicle use and charging so conventional vehicle emissions go down.

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Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)

The charging equipment installed for electric vehicles. LEED v5 parking points are tied to how much EVSE is provided.

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Sustainable Transportation Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores measured transportation performance of an existing building.

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Site assessment

An environmental assessment of the site, named in the Green Associate outline under Sustainable Sites, used to understand conditions before site design.

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Minimize Site Disturbance

A required SS prerequisite that limits construction disturbance and protects existing native vegetation, healthy soils, and wildlife habitat.

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Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan

The construction-phase plan for keeping soil on the site and out of receiving waters.

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Native vegetation

Plants already suited to the local ecology. Preserving them is part of limiting site disturbance.

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Soil restoration

Rebuilding damaged soils so vegetation and habitat can recover after construction.

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Biodiverse Habitat

An SS credit for conserving natural areas, restoring damaged areas, and providing habitat for local wildlife.

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Habitat conservation and restoration

Protecting existing habitat and repairing damaged habitat, named in the exam outline and pursued through site credits.

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Accessible Outdoor Space

An SS credit for outdoor space that supports activity, social use, and passive recreation and reflects the community served.

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Exterior open space

Outdoor area available to occupants. The exam outline lists it under site design and development.

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Zero lot line

A site condition with little or no setback. The rating system adjusts outdoor-space and restoration expectations for these projects.

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Rainwater Management

An SS credit that reduces runoff volume and improves water quality by mimicking the site's natural hydrology so downstream flooding is not worsened.

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Rainwater management resilience

Designing the site's rainwater systems with future storm and flood risk in mind, named in the exam outline under site design.

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Enhanced Resilient Site Design

An SS credit for designing the site and adjacent landscape to reduce damage from observed and projected climate and natural hazards.

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Heat Island Reduction

An SS credit that limits the extra heat hardscape and roofs add to the local microclimate.

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Heat island

The warmer microclimate created when dark roofs and paving absorb and re-radiate solar heat.

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Solar reflectance index (SRI)

A measure of how well a roof surface rejects solar heat. Higher SRI roofs are a heat-island strategy.

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High-reflectance roof

A roof surface chosen to reflect more sunlight and stay cooler, reducing heat-island effects.

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Vegetated roof

A planted roof that can reduce heat-island effects and help manage rainwater.

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Nonroof measures

Heat-island strategies on paving and other nonroof surfaces, as distinct from roof strategies.

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Light Pollution Reduction

An SS credit that limits nighttime light leaving the site so the night sky, people, and wildlife are less affected.

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Light trespass

Unwanted light that spills past the property onto neighboring areas.

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Uplight

Light directed upward into the night sky, which the light-pollution credit limits.

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Backlight

Light directed behind a fixture toward adjacent property. Exterior lighting criteria limit backlight as well as uplight and glare.

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Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) lighting zone

The lighting-zone classification used to set how much exterior light is appropriate for the site context.

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Light Pollution and Bird Collision Reduction

A LEED v5 O+M sustainable-sites credit that addresses exterior lighting impacts on people, the night sky, and birds.

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Water Metering and Reporting

A required WE prerequisite to meter and track water use so savings opportunities can be found. Certified projects also report whole-project water data for five years.

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Minimum Water Efficiency

A required WE prerequisite that cuts potable water use, and the energy and carbon used to treat and move that water, by an efficiency-first approach.

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Water Metering and Leak Detection

A WE credit for finer-grained metering and leak detection so wasted water and leak damage are limited.

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Enhanced Water Efficiency

A WE credit that goes beyond the prerequisite to cut potable demand further and to reward alternative water sources.

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Fixture and fitting efficiency

Using fixtures and fittings that need less water for the same service. This is the indoor efficiency baseline in the water prerequisite.

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Low-flow fixtures

Fixtures designed to deliver the needed service with a lower flow rate, a concept named in the exam outline for indoor water use.

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Waterless fixtures

Fixtures that provide the service without water, such as waterless alternatives named in the exam outline.

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Equipment water efficiency

Efficiency requirements for water-using equipment, separate from plumbing fixtures, under the minimum water-efficiency prerequisite.

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Outdoor water efficiency

Reducing irrigation demand, including through plant choice and irrigation design, as required within minimum water efficiency.

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Smart irrigation controllers

Controls that adjust irrigation to conditions rather than running on a fixed schedule. The exam outline lists them for outdoor water use.

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Native and adaptive species

Plants suited to the local climate so outdoor landscapes need less supplemental water. The exam outline names this strategy.

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Potable water

Water that meets drinking-water quality. LEED water credits focus on reducing potable demand first.

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Alternative water

Nonpotable water used in place of potable water, rewarded under enhanced water efficiency.

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Rainwater reuse

Collecting and using rainwater for appropriate demands instead of potable water. The exam outline lists rainwater for indoor and outdoor use.

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Graywater

Wastewater from uses such as sinks and showers, as distinct from toilet waste. The exam outline includes using graywater to reduce potable demand.

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Reclaimed water

Treated wastewater supplied for reuse. The rating system treats reclaimed water as an alternative source.

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On-site water treatment

Treating water at the project so it can be reused. The exam outline lists water treated on site under indoor water use.

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Process water

Water used for industrial or mechanical processes rather than for occupants' fixtures. The exam outline and the rating system both address its type and quality.

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Cooling tower cycles

How many times cooling-tower water is recirculated before blowdown. More cycles reduce makeup water.

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Submetering

Metering a specific water end use separately from the whole-building meter so waste can be found. The exam outline calls this water submetering.

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Leak detection

Finding unintended water loss. It is both an exam-outline topic and part of the water metering and leak detection credit.

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Water Efficiency Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores measured water-use performance of an operating building.

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Advanced Water Metering

A LEED v5 O+M credit for more detailed water metering than the required reporting meter.

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Operational Carbon Projection and Decarbonization Plan

A required EA prerequisite to show how current design choices affect long-term operational carbon and to plan for low-carbon operations from the start.

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Estimated Energy Use and Operational Carbon Projection

The LEED v5 ID+C prerequisite that estimates the interior project's energy use and the operational carbon that follows from it.

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Carbon Projection from Energy Use

The LEED v5 O+M prerequisite that projects carbon emissions from the existing building's energy use.

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On-site combustion

Burning fuel in the building. The carbon assessment and the electrification credit both treat it as a direct emissions source.

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Grid-supplied electricity

Electricity bought from the grid. Its carbon depends on the grid mix and is part of the carbon assessment.

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Minimum Energy Efficiency

A required EA prerequisite to reach a minimum efficiency level so excess energy use, cost, and greenhouse gases are limited.

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Building loads

The heating, cooling, and equipment demands the exam outline ties to equipment choices, the envelope, and how spaces are used.

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Building envelope

The roof, walls, windows, and floors that separate indoors from outdoors. A better envelope lowers heating and cooling loads.

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Air barrier

The layer that limits uncontrolled air leakage through the envelope, used as an efficiency strategy.

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Passive design

Design choices that reduce the need for mechanical heating and cooling. The exam outline lists passive strategies under energy efficiency.

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Energy modeling

Using a calculation model to estimate energy use and compare efficiency options. The exam outline names energy modeling as an efficiency concept.

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ASHRAE 90.1

The ASHRAE energy standard referenced extensively in the v5 BD+C energy requirements as a basis for efficiency.

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ENERGY STAR

The EPA energy-performance label referenced in v5 for efficient products and equipment.

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Fundamental Commissioning

A required EA prerequisite to verify that systems operate as the owner's project requirements intend, improving energy performance.

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Owner's Project Requirements (OPR)

The owner's documented goals and performance criteria. Fundamental commissioning checks systems against this document.

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Enhanced Commissioning

An EA credit that extends commissioning so systems keep performing as designed over time.

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Monitoring-based commissioning

Using ongoing monitored data to find and fix performance problems after occupancy. The exam outline and the rating system both include it.

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Ongoing commissioning

Continuing the commissioning process during operations, named in the exam outline under energy performance management.

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Energy Metering and Reporting

A required EA prerequisite to track and report energy use and demand so further savings can be found. Whole-project energy data is shared for five years after certification.

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Benchmarking

Comparing the building's energy performance with a baseline or peer set. The exam outline lists benchmarking under energy performance management.

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Building automation controls

Control systems that operate HVAC and other loads. The exam outline pairs them with advanced energy metering.

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Fundamental Refrigerant Management

A required EA prerequisite to cut refrigerant emissions by moving off high-global-warming-potential refrigerants and reducing leaks.

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Enhanced Refrigerant Management

An EA credit that further speeds the shift to lower-global-warming-potential refrigerants and better management.

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Global warming potential (GWP)

A measure of how much heat a refrigerant traps relative to carbon dioxide. v5 refrigerant prerequisites target high-GWP chemicals.

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Ozone depletion potential (ODP)

A measure of a refrigerant's ability to damage stratospheric ozone. Refrigerant management addresses ozone depletion as well as climate impact.

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Refrigerant leakage

Unintended release of refrigerant. Limiting leaks is part of fundamental refrigerant management.

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Electrification

An EA credit for designs that do not depend on burning fuel on site, improving air quality and aligning operations with a cleaner grid.

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Heat pump

An electric heating and cooling technology used to serve loads without on-site combustion.

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Reduce Peak Thermal Loads

An EA credit that lowers the building's peak heating and cooling demand on the grid and improves resilience.

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Peak thermal load

The highest heating or cooling demand the building places on its systems and the grid.

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Enhanced Energy Efficiency

An EA credit for going beyond the minimum so energy use, pollution, and greenhouse gases drop further.

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Renewable Energy

An EA credit for using renewable energy to displace fossil fuels and to add new renewable supply to the grid.

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Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 renewable energy

The three classes of renewable supply in v5. Platinum requires 100 percent of the applicable energy use from a combination of these tiers.

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Renewable energy certificate (REC)

A tradable instrument for the environmental attributes of renewable generation. The rating system sets rules for renewable contracts and their attributes.

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Green power

Renewable electricity procured for the project, named in the exam outline under alternative and renewable energy practices.

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Energy storage

Storing electricity or thermal energy so the building can shift when it draws from the grid. The exam outline and the rating system both include it.

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Thermal storage

Storing heating or cooling so peak thermal demand can be shifted.

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Grid Interactive

An EA credit for managing building loads in response to grid conditions so the building supports a lower-carbon, more reliable grid.

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Demand response

Temporarily changing building load when the grid is stressed. It is part of grid-interactive strategies in the rating system.

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores measured reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

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Optimized Energy Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores how efficiently the operating building uses energy.

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Peak Load Management

A LEED v5 O+M credit for strategies that manage the building's peak electrical demand.

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Decarbonization and Efficiency Plans

A LEED v5 O+M credit for plans that combine ongoing efficiency with a path to lower carbon.

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Nonrenewable energy

Energy from finite sources such as fossil fuels. The rating system and the exam outline treat reducing dependence on these sources as an environmental concern.

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Planning for Zero Waste Operations

A required MR prerequisite to set up storage, collection, and education so occupants can reduce, reuse, and recycle during operations.

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Storage and Collection of Recyclables

Providing space and a collection system for recyclables, part of planning the building for zero-waste operations.

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Quantify and Assess Embodied Carbon

A required MR prerequisite to measure the embodied carbon of the structure, enclosure, and hardscape and to identify the largest sources.

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Embodied carbon

The greenhouse gases from extracting, manufacturing, transporting, installing, and, where counted, disposing of materials. v5 makes this a core materials issue.

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High-priority embodied carbon sources

The material categories the assessment identifies as the largest embodied-carbon contributors, so reduction work is focused there.

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Structure, enclosure, and hardscape

The three scopes whose embodied carbon must be quantified under the v5 materials prerequisite.

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Life-cycle assessment (LCA)

A method for totaling environmental impacts of materials or a building across life-cycle stages. The exam outline and the rating system both use it for embodied carbon.

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Building and Materials Reuse

An MR credit for designing in reused buildings and materials so embodied carbon and demand for virgin materials drop.

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Interior Materials Reuse

The LEED v5 ID+C credit for reusing interior materials and furnishings.

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Salvaged material

Material recovered from a previous use and installed again, a reuse strategy in the rating system.

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Deconstruction

Taking a building apart so materials can be reused, rather than demolishing them into waste.

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Reduce Embodied Carbon

An MR credit that tracks and lowers the embodied carbon of major structural, enclosure, and hardscape materials. v5
Platinum requires a 20 percent reduction.

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Low-Emitting Materials

An MR credit that limits chemical emissions from products so installers and occupants are exposed to fewer contaminants.

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Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Carbon-based chemicals that evaporate into indoor air.
Low-emitting criteria limit VOC emissions from products.

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Formaldehyde emissions

Emissions of formaldehyde from products such as composite wood. The rating system sets evaluation criteria for them.

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Building Product Selection and Procurement

An MR credit that rewards products whose manufacturers disclose and improve environmental, economic, and social impacts.

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Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

A third-party document reporting a product's life-cycle environmental impacts. v5 product procurement uses EPDs as disclosure.

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Product-specific EPD

An EPD based on the specific product, as distinguished from a broader industry-average declaration.

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Industry-wide EPD

An EPD that represents an industry average rather than one manufacturer's product.

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Multi-attribute optimization

Improving a product against several environmental and health criteria at once, which product-procurement rewards beyond simple disclosure.

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Raw materials sourcing

Where and how a product's raw materials are extracted. The exam outline lists responsible sourcing under product purchasing.

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Human and ecological health impacts

Effects of material ingredients and life cycles on people and ecosystems, named in the exam outline under life-cycle impacts.

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Design for flexibility

Designing spaces and assemblies so they can be adapted with less demolition and new material. The exam outline lists it under life-cycle impacts.

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Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion

An MR credit for keeping construction and demolition waste out of landfills and incinerators.

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Construction and Demolition Materials Management Plan

The plan that sets how construction and demolition materials will be reduced, reused, recycled, or otherwise diverted.

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Waste diversion

Sending waste to reuse or recycling instead of disposal. The exam outline lists diversion as a waste strategy.

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Landfill

A disposal site for solid waste. Materials credits aim to reduce what is hauled there.

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Incineration

Burning waste. Diversion credits treat incineration, like landfilling, as disposal to avoid.

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Composting

Biological processing of organic waste. The exam outline lists composting as a waste strategy.

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Waste Reduction Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores how much operational waste the building avoids sending to disposal.

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Waste Reduction Strategies

A LEED v5 O+M credit for the operating practices that reduce ongoing waste.

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Construction Management

A required EQ prerequisite to protect workers and future occupants by controlling indoor-environment problems during construction and renovation.

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Fundamental Air Quality

A required EQ prerequisite to design ventilation and filtration for better-than-average indoor air.

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Ventilation and filtration design

Sizing outdoor air and filtration so indoor air quality meets the fundamental air-quality prerequisite.

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ASHRAE 62.1

The ASHRAE ventilation standard referenced for outdoor-air rates in the v5 indoor-air requirements.

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Outdoor air

Fresh air brought indoors. Fundamental and enhanced air quality both depend on how much outdoor air is supplied.

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Natural ventilation

Using outdoor air through operable openings instead of, or along with, mechanical ventilation. The exam outline lists it under indoor air quality.

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MERV filtration

Filtration rated on the MERV scale. The rating system uses MERV levels when it sets filtration for outdoor and recirculated air.

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Entryway system

A designed entry that captures dirt before it is tracked into occupied space, part of indoor-air strategies.

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No Smoking or Vehicle Idling

A required EQ prerequisite that limits exposure to tobacco smoke, smoke from substitutes or cannabis, and vehicle exhaust at the building.

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Smoke control

Keeping environmental tobacco smoke, and similar smoke, out of occupied areas. The exam outline lists smoke control under indoor air quality.

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Enhanced Air Quality

An EQ credit for going beyond the prerequisite so occupants have cleaner indoor air.

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Air Quality Testing and Monitoring

An EQ credit for testing and ongoing monitoring so indoor air problems can be found and managed. It is not offered on the Core and Shell scorecard.

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Particulate matter (PM2.5)

Fine airborne particles. Air-quality testing thresholds in the rating system include a maximum PM2.5 level.

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Carbon dioxide (CO2)

A gas used as an indicator of ventilation relative to occupancy. The rating system references CO2 sensing in air-quality strategies.

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Occupant Experience

An EQ credit for human-centered design, including light, views, acoustics, and thermal conditions that support comfort and stewardship.

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Daylight

Useful natural light in occupied spaces. The exam outline and the occupant-experience credit both address daylight.

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Quality views

Views to the outdoors that support occupant experience. The rating system uses quality of views as a criterion.

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Glare control

Limiting uncomfortable brightness from daylight or electric light. The exam outline lists glare control under lighting.

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Color rendering

How accurately a light source shows colors. The rating system sets color-rendering criteria for electric lighting quality.

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Operable windows

Windows occupants can open, giving access to outdoor air and a degree of personal control.

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Acoustics

Control of noise and sound quality. The exam outline lists acoustics and noise isolation, and the rating system addresses acoustic performance.

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Reverberation

How long sound lingers in a room. Acoustic criteria in the rating system address reverberation.

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Thermal comfort

Occupant satisfaction with temperature and related conditions. The exam outline covers thermal comfort design and controls.

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Adaptive comfort

Comfort approaches that account for occupants adapting to the climate, such as operable windows and wider acceptable ranges. The exam outline names adaptive comfort.

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Biophilic design

Design that connects occupants with nature, including plants, views, and adaptable environments. It is an exam-outline topic and part of occupant experience.

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Accessibility and Inclusion

An EQ credit for designing the building so a wide range of people can use it and feel they belong.

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Inclusive design

Design that anticipates diverse abilities and needs. The exam outline lists it under accessibility and inclusion.

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Wayfinding

Design features that help people orient and move through the building, addressed in inclusion-related requirements.

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Resilient Spaces

An EQ credit for features that let occupants adapt to climate events and stay protected when outdoor conditions would harm indoor health.

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Verification of Ventilation and Filtration

A required LEED v5 O+M prerequisite to confirm that ventilation and filtration in the operating building perform as intended.

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Indoor Air Quality Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores measured indoor air quality during the performance period.

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Ventilation Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores how well the operating building is ventilated.

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Occupant Experience Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores the measured or surveyed experience of occupants.

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Facility Stewardship Performance

A LEED v5 O+M credit that scores how well the facility is cared for from the occupants' and operators' standpoint.

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Green Cleaning

A LEED v5 O+M credit for cleaning practices and products that limit harm to indoor air and human health. The exam outline also lists green cleaning under indoor air quality.

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Integrated Pest Management

A LEED v5 O+M credit for controlling pests with methods that reduce reliance on routine broadcast pesticides.

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Project Priorities credit

The v5 credit that awards up to 9 points for strategies matched to local priorities, project type, exemplary performance, pilot credits, or innovation.

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Regional priority

A Project Priorities path for credits that address geographically specific environmental, equity, or public-health needs.

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Project-type credit

A credit from USGBC's credit library written for the needs of a particular adaptation or building application.

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Exemplary performance

A credit-library path for going beyond an existing v5 prerequisite or credit in scale, decarbonization, resilience, health, equity, or ecosystems.

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Pilot credit

A credit still being tested in USGBC's credit library. Achieving one can earn a Project Priorities point.

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Innovative strategies

A Project Priorities path for a measurable environmental strategy the v5 rating system does not already address, documented with intent, requirements, and submittals.

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LEED AP with specialty

A Project Priorities point earned when at least one principal team member is a LEED Accredited Professional with a specialty appropriate to the project.

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