

Introduction

About the LEED Credentialing Program

The Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) offers credentialing opportunities to professionals who demonstrate knowledge of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building practices. *LEED Homes Practice Exam* prepares you for both parts of the LEED AP Homes exam.

GBCI's LEED credentialing program has three tiers. The first tier corresponds to the LEED Green Associate exam. According to the *LEED Green Associate Candidate Handbook*, this exam confirms that you have the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and support green design, construction, and operations. When you pass the LEED Green Associate exam, you will earn the LEED Green Associate credential.

The second tier, which corresponds to the LEED AP specialty exams, confirms your deeper and more specialized knowledge of green building practices. There are four tracks for the LEED AP exams: LEED AP Homes, LEED AP Operations & Maintenance, LEED AP Building Design & Construction, and LEED AP Interior Design & Construction; and the LEED AP Neighborhood Development is being planned. The LEED AP exams are based on the corresponding LEED reference guide and rating systems and other references. When you pass the LEED Green Associate exam along with any LEED AP specialty exam, you will earn the LEED AP credential.

The third tier, called LEED AP Fellow, will distinguish professionals with an exceptional depth of knowledge, experience, and accomplishments with LEED green building practices. This distinction will be attainable through extensive LEED project experience, not by taking an exam.

For more information about LEED credentialing, visit www.ppi2pass.com/LEEDhome.

About the LEED AP Homes Exam

The LEED AP Homes exam contains 200 questions. (So does the practice exam in this book.) Exam Part 1: LEED Green Associate Exam contains 100 questions that test your knowledge of green building practices and principles, as well as your familiarity with LEED requirements,

resources, and processes related to both commercial and residential spaces and both new construction and existing building projects. Accordingly, GBCI categorizes the Exam Part 1 questions into the following seven subject areas.

- *Synergistic Opportunities and LEED Application Process* (project requirements; costs; green resources; standards that support LEED credit; credit interactions; Credit Interpretation Requests and rulings that lead to exemplary performance credits; components of LEED Online and project registration; components of LEED Scorecard; components of letter templates; strategies to achieve credit; project boundary; LEED boundary; property boundary; prerequisites and/or minimum program requirements for LEED certification; preliminary rating; multiple certifications for same building; occupancy requirements; USGBC policies; requirements to earn LEED AP credit)
- *Project Site Factors* (community connectivity: transportation and pedestrian access; zoning requirements; development: heat islands)
- *Water Management* (types and quality of water; water management)
- *Project Systems and Energy Impacts* (environmental concerns; green power)
- *Acquisition, Installation, and Management of Project Materials* (recycled materials; regionally harvested and manufactured materials; construction waste management)
- *Stakeholder Involvement in Innovation* (integrated project team criteria; durability planning and management; innovative and regional design)
- *Project Surroundings and Public Outreach* (codes)

Exam Part 2: LEED AP Homes Specialty Exam contains an additional 100 questions that test your knowledge of subject areas unique to green home building design and construction. Accordingly, GBCI categorizes the Exam Part 2 questions into the following seven subject areas.

- *Project Site Factors* (considerations for site selection: land issues, plants, and animals; community connectivity and services; development: building and land; green management; climate conditions)
- *Water Management* (water treatment; stormwater; irrigation demand)
- *Project Systems and Energy Impacts* (energy performance policies; building components; on-site renewable energy; requirements and alternative rating systems for third-party relationships; energy performance measurement; energy trade-offs; energy usage; specialized equipment power needs)
- *Acquisition, Installation, and Management of Project Materials* (building reuse; rapidly renewable materials; acquisition of materials; neutral homes)
- *Improvements to the Indoor Environment* (minimum ventilation requirement; tobacco smoke control; air quality; ventilation effectiveness; indoor air quality: pre-construction, during construction, before occupancy, and during occupancy; low-emitting materials; indoor/outdoor chemical and pollutant control; lighting controls; thermal controls; views; acoustics; residential requirements)
- *Stakeholder Involvement in Innovation* (design workshop/charrette; ways to earn credit; education of homeowner or tenant; education of building manager)
- *Project Surroundings and Public Outreach* (preferred location; infrastructure; information of available community resources; site selection in collaboration with developer; zoning requirements; government planning agencies; planning terminology; land

development phases; public-private partnership; development footprint reduction methods; reduced parking methods; transit-oriented development; pedestrian oriented streetscape design; ADA/Universal access; streetscape planning)

Taking the LEED Credentialing Exams

To apply for a LEED credentialing exam, you must agree to the Disciplinary and Exam Appeals Policy and credential maintenance requirements and submit to an application audit. To be eligible to take the LEED Green Associate exam, one of the following must be true.

- Your line of work is in a sustainable field.
- You have documented experience supporting a LEED-registered project.
- You have attended an education program that addresses green building principles.

To be eligible to take a LEED AP exam, you must have documented experience with a LEED-registered project within the three years prior to your application submittal.

The LEED credentialing exams are administered by computer at Prometric test sites. Prometric is a third-party testing agency with over 250 testing locations in the United States and hundreds of centers globally. To schedule an exam, you must first apply at www.gbci.org to receive an eligibility ID number. Then, you must go to the Prometric website at www.prometric.com/gbci to schedule and pay for the exam. If you need to reschedule or cancel your exam, you must do so directly through Prometric.

The LEED credentialing exam questions are multiple choice with four or more answer options for each question. If more than one option must be selected to correctly answer a question, the question stem will indicate how many options you must choose. Each 100-question exam lasts two hours, giving you a bit more than one and a half minutes per question. The bulk of the questions are non-numerical. Calculators are provided, but only basic math is needed to correctly solve any quantitative questions. No reference materials or other supplies may be brought into the exam room, though a pencil and scratch paper will be provided by the testing center. (References are not provided.) The only thing you need to bring with you on exam day is your identification.

Your testing experience begins with an optional brief tutorial to introduce you to the testing computer's functions. When you've finished the tutorial, questions and answer options are shown on a computer screen, and the computer keeps track of which options you choose. Because points are not deducted for incorrectly answered questions, you should mark an answer to every question. For answers you are unsure of, make your best guess and flag the question for later review. If you decide on a different answer later, you can change it, but if you run out of time before getting to all your flagged questions, you still will have given a response to each one. Be sure to mark the correct number of options for each question. There is no partial credit for incomplete answers (or for selecting only some of the correct options).

If you are taking both the first tier (LEED Green Associate) and the second tier (LEED AP) exams on the same day, at the end of your first session the computer will ask you if you are ready to take the second tier. You can take a short break of about 3 minutes at this time. The second tier's two hours will begin when you click "yes" to indicate that you are ready.

To ensure that the chances of passing remain constant regardless of the difficulty of the specific questions administered on any given exam, GBCI converts the raw exam score to a scaled score, with the total number of points set at 200 and a minimum passing score of 170. In this way, you are not penalized if the exam taken is more difficult than another exam. Instead,

in such a case, fewer questions must be answered correctly to achieve a passing score. Your scaled score (or scores, if you are taking both tiers on the same day) is reported on the screen upon completing the exam. A brief optional exit survey completes the exam experience.

When you pass the LEED Green Associate exam, a LEED Green Associate certificate will be sent to you in the mail. If you take and pass both exams, a LEED AP certificate will be sent to you in the mail. If you take both exams but pass only the LEED AP exam, you will need to register again and retake and pass the LEED Green Associate exam before you receive any LEED credential.

How to Use This Book

There are two ways you can use this book's practice exam. You can determine your areas for further study with an untimed review of the questions and answers. Familiarize yourself with the exam format and content and determine which subjects you are weak in. This book's companion volume, *LEED Prep Homes: What You Really Need to Know to Pass the LEED AP Homes Exam*, will give you a complete, concise review of the subjects covered on the exam. *LEED Homes Flashcards*, also available through PPI, will reinforce your ability to retain and recall what you've studied.

Or, you can use this book to simulate the exam experience, either as a pretest before you begin your study or when you think you are fully prepared. In this case, treat this practice exam as though it were the real thing. Don't look at the questions or answers ahead of time. Put away your study materials and references, set a timer for two hours, and answer as many questions as you can within the time limit. Practice exam-like time management. Fill in the provided bubble sheet with your best guess on every question regardless of your certainty and mark the answers to revisit if time permits. If you finish before the time is up, review your work. If you are unable to finish within the time limit, make a note of where you were after two hours, but continue on to complete the exam. Keep track of your time to see how much faster you will need to work to finish the actual exam within two hours.

After taking the practice exam, check your answers against the answer key. Consider a question correctly answered only if you have selected all of the required options (and no others). Calculate the percentage correct. Though the actual exam score will be scaled, aim for getting at least 70% (70 questions) of the practice exam's questions correct. The fully explained answers are a learning tool. Therefore, in addition to reading the answers to the questions you answered incorrectly, also read the explanations of those you answered correctly. Categorize your incorrect answers by exam subject to help you determine which areas need further study. Use GBCI's list of references and PPI's *LEED Prep Homes* to guide your preparation. Though this practice exam reflects the breadth and depth of the content on the actual exam, use your best judgment when determining the subjects you need to review.