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## LEED and the Hospitality Industry

1800 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
T: 202 828-7422  
F: 202 828-5110  
www.usgbc.org

### **Are hotels, motels, resorts and other hospitality facilities able to use the existing LEED rating systems?**

Yes, the LEED green building rating systems are currently used in a variety of different space types including those in the hospitality industry. The LEED rating system is broad enough to measure the environmental impact of vastly different space types. When deemed necessary, LEED has been refined to give more appropriate measurements for specific building types. To date, there are specific LEED rating systems covering new construction of schools, healthcare facilities and retail (in pilot).

### **How many hospitality projects have certified or registered with LEED?**

To date, 10 lodging properties have achieved LEED certification. An additional 180 lodging projects have registered with LEED and are working towards certification. Non-hotel hospitality projects, mainly conference & convention centers, represent another area of growth: 50 such projects are currently using LEED, 7 of which are certified.

### **Will there be a LEED for Hospitality?**

USGBC acknowledges the potential for the LEED portfolio of rating systems to be refined to better suit the needs of the hospitality market. Hospitality properties can present unique challenges in certain areas of environmental performance, often due to features such as on-site amenities, food & beverage operations, convention facilities, and transient guest populations. USGBC has taken the first steps in identifying areas of LEED that need further attention in light of hospitality-specific circumstances and is working to develop solutions that make adoption of LEED as feasible and effective as possible for the hospitality market.

### **When will these refinements to LEED be available to the market?**

USGBC is currently finishing an initial needs assessment of the technical and non-technical changes that would make the LEED rating system more applicable to the hospitality market. The scope of and timeline for these changes will be determined based on the initial needs assessment. It is not anticipated that any of the hospitality refinements will be available before early 2009.

### **Why will it take so long to make the changes?**

The process of changing a LEED rating system is no small task. LEED Rating Systems are developed through an open, consensus-based process. The key elements of USGBC's consensus process include a balanced and transparent committee structure, technical advisory groups that ensure scientific consistency and rigor, opportunities for stakeholder comment and review, member ballot of new rating systems, and a fair and open appeals process. While it does take some time, the transparent process ensures industry involvement as well as the rigor, integrity, and appropriateness for the industry of the resulting requirements.



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### **Is USGBC's rating system refinement work focused only on newly constructed hotels?**

The needs assessment examines the potential changes to all applicable rating systems, including those focused on design & construction, as well as LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance. All future refinements of the rating system will look holistically at design, construction, operations and maintenance. Improving the environmental performance of existing buildings' operations & maintenance represents a significant portion of our environmental opportunity.

### **Will the changes to the rating system be significant?**

It is anticipated that the bulk of the rating system will remain the same but that certain credits will be refined to better suit the hospitality market. In past rating system refinements, between 4 and 10 credits have been significantly adapted. In some cases, additional credits have been added.

### **How can I get involved?**

USGBC has been working with the hospitality industry in several ways. There is currently an informal advisory group of owners, managers and providers (at capacity) and USGBC staff are facilitating an interactive session at HDEXpo in May 2008. The best way to get involved currently is to fill out an online survey designed for industry stakeholders. Please email [leedinfo@usgbc.org](mailto:leedinfo@usgbc.org) to be included.

### **Should I use the existing LEED rating systems until the hospitality version is released?**

USGBC is highly encouraging hoteliers to use the existing rating systems. Hotelier use of the existing rating systems helps the industry to begin adjusting its practices and provides critical input back to USGBC as to potential future refinements for an industry-specific version.

### **How can I be sure that my product or service is represented in LEED?**

USGBC does not certify, promote, or endorse products and services of individual companies. Products and services do play a role in LEED and can help projects with credit achievement. (Note that products and services do not earn projects points.)

Since LEED does not specifically reference specific products or services it is suggested that you learn about the LEED Rating System to find out how your product or service can help projects meet credit requirements. Please visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) for more information.