

University of Nebraska Sustainable Design Policy

In the interest of being good stewards of the environment, the University of Nebraska is implementing sustainable building goals and requirements into their design guidelines.

The goals and requirements being implemented are based on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program for New Construction (LEED-NC) which is sponsored by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). This program encompasses a holistic approach to sustainable design. The intents of the program are to provide a quantifiable rating system universal to the building industry and to transform the marketplace to become more sustainable.

Points towards achieving certification are obtained by meeting the requirements for various "credits." Credits will identify specific goals and requirements that pertain to all aspects of the design and construction of a project, ranging from recycled materials to energy efficiency to construction waste management. Strategies that meet these goals and requirements (as defined by each "credit") will benefit the university, occupant, community, and global environment in the following ways:

- **Optimizing Energy Performance**
 - Projects that meet these goals and requirements will decrease building energy usage and provide tangible results for the university and our community through lower utility costs and reduced resource usage while meeting the environmental requirements of functions to be housed in the building.

- **Indoor Environmental Quality and Health**
 - Projects that achieve a high indoor environmental quality will provide benefits to the university and moreover to occupants. It is widely accepted that high indoor environmental quality increases occupant productivity and mental health while reducing absenteeism. Occupant health is a high priority for learning institutions.

- **Local/Regional Community**
 - Projects that meet these goals and requirements will benefit the University of Nebraska campus environments, and will directly affect the local and regional community of which the university is a member. These projects will reduce the load on our local municipality infrastructure. They will stimulate the local economy through increased demand for local resources and materials and new sustainable market development. These projects will also reduce the negative impact on our local environment as compared to a standard building.

- **Global Environment**
 - Projects that meet these goals and requirements will use considerably less of our world's natural resources, create substantially less waste through construction and operation, and conserve our energy sources.

To obtain certification, the project must be registered with the USGBC and the proper documentation submitted per LEED requirements. Information on the current rating system requirements can be found at www.usgbc.org. The University of Nebraska may or may not pursue certifications per the LEED program depending upon the project, however, all new construction and major renovation projects (total project cost exceeds 15% of replacement value) will achieve a minimum number of points to meet certified level. Individual projects may require meeting a higher number of LEED credits.

Certified Level

This category pertains to credits (goals and requirements) that have been determined attainable based on good practices. These credits shall be considered mandatory on all projects unless the University of Nebraska requests otherwise. The costs to implement strategies that meet all of these credits are anticipated to add minimally to the total construction budget and will vary per project. These additional costs will apply to associated construction cost for sustainable design features, consultant fees for additional documentation and research, and Commissioning. All minimal credits may provide a return on investment ranging from energy cost savings to increased productivity. It is possible to reduce the additional cost by beginning the implementation of strategies that meet these credits during the early stages of the project.

Desirable Level

This category pertains to credits (goals and requirements) that have been determined attainable with small additional effort beyond normal design and construction practices. These credits shall be achieved in the project at the request of the University of Nebraska or at the desire of the design team. In addition to the minimal credits, the costs to implement strategies that meet all of these credits are anticipated to add to the total construction budget and will vary per project. These additional costs would apply to associated construction cost for sustainable design features, consultant fees for additional documentation and research, and Commissioning. All minimal and desirable credits may provide a return on investment ranging from energy cost savings to increased productivity. It is possible to reduce the additional cost by beginning the implementation of strategies that meet these credits during the early stages of the project.

Optional Level

This category pertains to credits (goals and requirements) that have been determined attainable but optional upon project specific aspects. The costs to implement strategies that meet these credits are also optional upon project specific aspects. Strategies that meet these credits shall be considered on all projects and implemented at the request of the University of Nebraska or at the desire of the design team.

Advanced Level

This category pertains to credits (goals and requirements) that have been determined attainable for projects striving for a high level of LEED certification or exceptional sustainable design. Strategies that meet these credits shall be pursued only at the request of the University of Nebraska. In addition to the minimal, desirable, and optional credits, the costs to implement strategies that meet all of these credits are anticipated to add to the total construction budget and will vary per project. These additional costs would apply to associated construction cost for sustainable design features, consultant fees for additional documentation and research, and Commissioning. All recommended credits may provide a return on investment ranging from energy cost savings to increased productivity. It is possible to reduce the additional cost by beginning the implementation of strategies that meet these credits during the early stages of the project.