



SERVICE PROVIDER GUIDE

Guidelines for Selecting a LEED Consultant

Intent

This guide will help you learn more about what to look for when selecting a professional to assist in LEED coordination and certification.

Background

The LEED rating system was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement, promote integrated, whole-building design practices, recognize environmental leadership in the building industry, stimulate green competition, raise consumer awareness of green building benefits, transform the building market. There are four levels of certification based on points which are attributed in the areas of site, water, energy, materials, and indoor environmental quality. LEED is widely recognized, with many financial and other incentives available across the country for compliance.

Questions to Ask

When selecting a LEED consultant for your project, review the general questions for guidance as listed below:

Q1: What is your experience with LEED?

It is important that a LEED consultant be at the forefront of the green building effort, particularly with regards to the USGBC and LEED.

Q2: What LEED projects have you been involved in and what level of LEED certification have they achieved?

The real value of hiring someone to assist in the LEED coordination process is past experience on their part to ensure a smooth, cost effective and technically appropriate submittal. It is important that the consultant demonstrate past experience working on a LEED project as primary coordinator, including familiarity with current and project appropriate versions of LEED.

Q3: How do you anticipate working with the design team to collect appropriate documentation for the LEED application?

LEED certification must be accomplished by the entire team, it is not something that a LEED consultant can do independently. The team will need to be up to speed on what documentation they need to collect along the way, how to complete key calculators and letter templates, and appropriate design strategies that support the goals of the project. A LEED consultant should be involved in all of these efforts, with the primary role of collecting all off the appropriate material and developing the submittal for certification, including any Credit Interpretation Requests or other technical support to inform the design and LEED approach.