

CaGBC LEED AP FAQs

January 25th, 2010

During 2010 the LEED AP program will transition from the CaGBC to the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). GBCI will introduce a number of significant improvements to the credentialing program that enhance the integrity and credibility of the program over the coming years. This FAQ provides further information about how these changes will affect Canadians. This FAQ will be updated regularly as information is available, but note that more information, including FAQs are available at www.gbci.org.

Find answers to these questions below:

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LEED Professional Credential Overview

Q: Why are the LEED Professional Credentials changing?

A: Since 2001, more than 100,000 building professionals have earned the LEED AP without specialty credential through GBCI by demonstrating their understanding of environmentally sustainable building design, construction and operations. The changes to the exam system reflect the rapid advances in green building technology and practice in the marketplace. The three-tiered credentials will ensure that LEED professionals have the latest knowledge and understanding of green building practices AND that their proficiency is recognized.

In 2008, GBCI surveyed LEED APs to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the LEED AP program. Through this research, GBCI identified that LEED APs wanted a credential that stayed

current, differentiated expertise among green building practitioners, and provided specialization within different sectors of the industry.

Changes to the LEED Professional Credentials include:

- 3 levels of excellence for a professional to pursue. These tiers provide a mechanism to recognize knowledge and expertise beyond a basic understanding of green building practices. Tiered credentials allows the marketplace to distinguish between practitioners with basic, advanced, and extraordinary levels of knowledge.
- Eligibility requirements for all tiers.
- Credential maintenance requirements for all tiers. As sustainable technologies advance and the LEED Rating Systems evolve, the LEED Professional Credentials need mechanism to ensure that LEED Professionals have the latest knowledge and understanding of green building practices.

Q: Who is responsible for the LEED Professional Credentials in Canada?

A: The Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) is now responsible for administering the LEED Professional Credentials globally.

Q: Who is GBCI and what is their role developing and delivering LEED Professional Exams?

A: The Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) was established in 2008 to administer credentialing and certification programs related to green building practice. GBCI's third-party administration and development provides balanced and objective management of the LEED Professional Credentials.

Q: Why is the CaGBC not handling the LEED Professional Credentials anymore?

A: GBCI's administration of the LEED Professional Credentials globally creates more credible credentials that will meet strict international requirements. Additionally, the CaGBC will be able to better support future and existing credential holders by focusing more of its resources on education.

Q: What is the CaGBC's role in the LEED Professional Credentials now?

A: CaGBC will provide support to aspiring and current LEED Green Associates and LEED APs through education and exam preparation. We will focus our resources on helping candidates gain the understanding of LEED they will need to pass the exams and support LEED Professionals by providing education to maintain their credentials.

Since GBCI develops and delivers the LEED Professional Credentials, it does not offer or endorse any supporting education programs or exam preparation resources. Passing the LEED Professional Exams demonstrates a strong depth of knowledge in and practical understanding of the LEED Rating Systems. In Canada, CaGBC will become your source for education, study guides, reference guides, chapter study sessions, and other support to help you meet the challenge.

LEED Professional Exams

Q: I just failed the CaGBC's LEED AP exam. What are my options now?

A: GBCI is launching the LEED Professional Credentials in Canada. Those who did not pass one of the CaGBC's LEED AP exams can apply through GBCI for their LEED Green Associate and at some point in the future, their LEED AP credentials.

Q: Will I get a CaGBC member discount on any of the new exams?

A: Yes, CaGBC members will be eligible for member pricing on LEED Professional Exams. However, your CaGBC membership must be linked to your [My Credentials](#) account on the GBCI website prior to registering for an exam; member pricing is not automatically retroactively applied after registration.

Q: I have purchased the CaGBC's National Benefits Package, will I get the member rate on the exam?

A: Yes; however, your CaGBC membership must be linked to your [My Credentials](#) account prior to registration as member pricing is not automatically retroactively applied after registration.

Q: What are the LEED Professional Credential tiers?

A: Tier I: LEED Green Associate

For professionals who want to demonstrate green building expertise in non-technical fields of practice, GBCI has created the LEED Green Associate credential, which denotes basic knowledge of green design, construction, and operations.

Tier II: LEED AP with specialty

The LEED AP with specialty credential signifies an advanced depth of knowledge in green building practices and specialization in a particular LEED Rating System.

Specialties: LEED AP Operations + Maintenance (O+M)

LEED AP Homes

LEED AP Building Design + Construction (BD + C)

LEED AP Interior Design +Construction (ID + C)

LEED AP Neighborhood Development (ND)

Tier III: LEED AP Fellow

The LEED Fellow credential distinguishes an extraordinary class of leading professionals. Fellows contribute to the standards of practice and body of knowledge for achieving continuous improvement in the green building field.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements for the LEED Professional Credentials?

A: All candidates are also required to agree to the Disciplinary and Exam Appeals Policy and Credential Maintenance Program and submit to an application audit.

Candidates for the LEED Green Associate must have experience in the form of EITHER documented involvement on a LEED-registered project OR employment (or previous employment) in a sustainable field of work OR engagement in (or completion of) an education program that addresses green building principles.

Candidates for the LEED AP must have experience in the form of documented professional experience on a LEED project, within the last 3 years, with verification through LEED Online or employer attestation.

Q: Will I be able to write my exam in French?

A: GBCI will deliver the LEED Green Associate exam in English only. GBCI is researching the demand for additional languages and any such decisions will be publicized on GBCI's website.

Q: When will the exams be available in Canada?

A: The LEED Green Associate exam will be available on February 2, 2010 at Prometric test centers across Canada (in English only). The CaGBC and GBCI are researching the relevance of the LEED AP exams to the Canadian market. More information will be provided in the future.

Q: What is the process to write an exam?

A: To write the exam, you first apply for the exam by logging on to [My Credentials](#) through GBCI's website. Once your application has been approved, you then register for an exam appointment and receive an eligibility ID, which you use to schedule the exam with Prometric.

Q: Where do I write the exams?

A: You write the exam at Prometric test centres throughout Canada. To find a test centre near you, visit Prometric's website at www.prometric.com/gbcj.

Q: What if I want to write one of the LEED AP exams, such as Building Design and Construction (BD+C), Operations & Maintenance (O+M), or Homes?

A: In order to take the LEED AP exam, you must meet the eligibility requirements of experience in the form of documented professional experience on a LEED project, within the last 3 years, with verification through LEED Online or employer attestation as well as agreeing to the Disciplinary and Exam Appeals Policy and Credential Maintenance Program and submitting to an application audit.

Since the LEED AP exam is not available in Canada, exam takers interested in writing the LEED AP exam can either write the LEED AP exam in the US (or other countries worldwide) at any time or wait for the CaGBC and GBCI to determine if the LEED AP exams will be launched in Canada.

Credential Maintenance

Q: Am I required to complete credential maintenance?

A: If you earn one of GBCI's LEED Professional Credentials, you will be required to complete credential maintenance. LEED Green Associates must earn 15 continuing education (CE) hours during each 2-year reporting period. LEED APs with specialty must earn 30 CE hours during each 2-year reporting period. For more information on credential maintenance, including how to earn CE hours, visit www.gbcj.org.

Q: I passed the CaGBC's LEED AP exam. What are my options for becoming a LEED AP with specialty?

A: We are working with GBCI to transfer all CaGBC LEED APs into GBCI's My Credentials system. Once the transfer is complete, you will have an enrollment window and will be able to enroll as outlined in GBCI's [Enrollment Guide](#). Enrollment ends October 27, 2011. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

If you don't enroll, you will continue to be a LEED AP; you are not required to do any credential maintenance or pay any fees to remain a LEED AP.

Q: I want to enroll to become a LEED AP with specialty. What will my options be?

A: Once the transition of LEED AP data to the US is complete, LEED APs without specialty will have the option of enrolling. Enrollment is a voluntary, one-time process through which LEED APs without specialty can complete prescriptive credential maintenance or retest to earn one of the new LEED AP with specialty credentials.

LEED APs without specialty will have until an enrollment window until fall 2011, during which they have two options:

Option 1: Become a LEED AP with one or more specialties among BD+C, Homes, ID+C, ND, or O+M by passing one or more of the new specialty exams. (View GBCI's [Enrollment Guide](#) for more information.)

Option 2: Become a LEED AP with one or more specialties among BD+C, ID+C, or O+M by completing the prescriptive credential maintenance requirements for the initial 2-year reporting period. (View GBCI's [Enrollment Guide](#) for more information.)

You can view your enrollment window through My Credentials at www.gbci.org. If you don't enroll, you will continue to be a LEED AP without specialty in the LEED Professional Directory. You are not required to do any credential maintenance or pay any fees to remain in the LEED Professional Directory.

Q: I have received emails from GBCI asking me to enroll. What are my options?

A: If you have already received emails from GBCI asking you to enroll, you either passed a USGBC LEED exam (prior to a Canadian exam being available), or passed a more recent GBCI LEED AP without specialty exam. If this is the case, you can enroll as outlined above and in GBCI's [Enrollment Guide](#). However, given that the credentialing maintenance program has not yet been formally launched in Canada, you may wish to delay your enrollment until more continuing education is available that meets the GBCI requirements.

Q: Will the CaGBC continue to maintain a list of LEED APs?

A: No. We are working with GBCI to transfer all CaGBC LEED APs into GBCI's My Credentials system. Once this transfer is complete, you will appear as a LEED AP without specialty in GBCI's LEED Professional Directory.