



FAQ: Launch of *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009*

January 20, 2011

When will *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* be available?

Registration for *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* opens June 21, 2010.

Will I be able to register under the current rating systems after June 20, 2010?

No, you will not be able to register for either *LEED Canada NC 1.0* or *LEED Canada CS 1.0* after the new versions are released on June 21, 2010.

How can I learn more about the new rating systems?

The New Construction Technical Review [workshop](#) has already been updated to *LEED Canada NC 2009* - see the CaGBC website (Education section) for further details. In addition, the CaGBC has offered a [webinar](#) to present an overview of the differences between the previous versions and the new 2009 versions.

Will I be able to switch a previously registered project to *LEED Canada NC 2009* or *LEED Canada CS 2009* after these versions are launched?

Yes, projects registered under the current versions of the rating systems will be able to switch to the new versions. Applicants are encouraged to contact CaGBC Customer Service if they wish to be switched to the 2009 versions, but are cautioned that once the project is upgraded to version 2009, the project may not be converted back to the previous version.

Will I be able to use *LEED Canada 2009* pathways for a previously registered project without fully upgrading to new products?

Yes, projects registered under the current versions of the rating systems will be able to use some pathways from *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* without fully upgrading to the new rating systems. A table of allowed substitutions is provided on the CaGBC's website. Not all new pathways will be acceptable for previously registered projects due to the change in individual credit weightings. However, the CaGBC recognizes that some applicants will want to use the alternative credit pathways provided in the 2009 product line but are unable to fully upgrade due to the stage of completion of the project. This methodology provides flexibility to LEED Canada users.

What Reference Guide do I use?

LEED Canada NC 2009 and *LEED Canada CS 2009* are fully integrated, sharing a common Rating System document and Reference Guide. The new reference guide is called the *LEED Canada Reference Guide for Green Building Design and Construction 2009*.

What elements of the new systems are included at launch? And how do I handle a project where I need an element that is not yet available?

Element	Available when	Alternative path until available
Rating Systems	March 31, 2010 Updated June 21, 2010	NA
Comparison to previous rating system, version 1.0	March 31, 2010	NA
Allowance Table for adoption of 2009 credits within version 1.0 projects	June 9, 2010	NA
Registration under <i>LEED Canada NC 2009</i> or <i>LEED Canada CS 2009</i>	June 21, 2010	NA
Rating System Checklists	June 21, 2010	NA
<i>LEED Canada Reference Guide for Green Building Design and Construction 2009</i>	June 21, 2010	NA
LEED Letter Templates	August 11, 2010	NA
Durable Building Tables for Regional Priority Credit 1 (Durable Building)	June 21, 2010	NA
<i>Guidance for Regional Priority Credit</i>	Q2 2011	Applicants are welcome to use the general guidance provided for <i>LEED Canada EB:O&M 2009</i> until a version for <i>LEED Canada NC</i> and <i>LEED Canada CS</i> is made available.
<i>LEED Canada 2009 Supplementary Energy Modelling Guidelines</i>	June 21, 2010	NA
<i>LEED Canada 2009 Interpretation Guide for District Energy Systems</i>	Q2 2011	Applicants are welcome to use the current <i>District Energy System Interpretation Guide (March 2008)</i> until such time as the new version is released.
CaGBC's Experienced Modeller List	Q2 2011	The applications for the call for experienced modellers are under review. The preliminary list will be made available in the beginning of Q2 along with the required experience and process for applying. Until the list is available, applicants can use independent assessors on NRCan's list of Experienced Consultants for independent 3 rd party reviews of energy simulations for EA Prerequisite 2 and EA Credit 1.

Why is the LEED Canada CS update tied to the LEED Canada NC update?

This was done in recognition of the fact that *LEED Canada CS* is derived from *LEED Canada NC* and significant portions of the content are identical. The integration also recognizes that some projects may begin as CS projects and finish as NC projects, or vice versa, depending on the ability to recruit tenants; by integrating the documentation for the two (sister) rating systems, we can better ensure alignment and provide greater ease of use for project teams faced with changing occupancy rates.

Is the final Rating System document different from the balloted version?

The *LEED Canada NC 2009* Rating System was released for ballot to CaGBC members in December 2008. The Rating System document outlines the intents and requirements of each credit and prerequisite. Since balloting, *LEED Canada NC 2009* has undergone updates and changes. Most importantly, requirements for *LEED Canada CS 2009* have been added. In addition, changes (generally grammatical) made by the USGBC following their ballot have been integrated. Finally, minor corrections are being made to the version initially released March 31, 2010.

My company works in both Canada and the USA. How will the LEED Canada 2009 products be different from the USGBC LEED 2009 products?

Those who operate in both the United States and Canada will find there is greater alignment with the new rating systems. The development team generally limited changes to those that could be justified by differences in the Canadian marketplace, such as standards and regulations.

Will the new LEED Canada products use USGBC's LEED Online?

No, *LEED Canada 2009* projects will continue to use a process similar to the current *LEED Canada NC 1.0* certification methodology. There will be some minor changes (e.g., removal of the audit round); see the reference guide for further details. The CaGBC is investigating moving to the USGBC's LEED Online system for a future version launch.

Why is LEED Canada CI not being updated?

LEED Canada for Commercial Interiors was only recently released in Canada (fully launched in 2007) and is a standalone product. It was determined that the best use of our resources was to redevelop only *LEED Canada NC* and *LEED Canada CS* at this time, as *LEED Canada CI* continues to serve customers well.