

LEED Canada for Neighbourhood Development (ND)



The CaGBC is working towards the successful development and delivery of the LEED Canada for Neighbourhood Development (ND) rating system to guide and assess sustainable community development. LEED ND is part of the existing LEED Canada rating system, taking this model beyond the building scale, to the level of holistic community design. LEED ND integrates leading knowledge on urban design and smart growth, sustainable infrastructure and transportation, public health linked to built form, ecological site development and green building into a comprehensive system to guide and certify community developments across Canada. Eligible projects can include redevelopment projects, urban infill and Greenfield developments depending on project site location.

WHY LEED Canada ND?

Local governments and industry leaders across the country have approached the CaGBC to ask that LEED ND be introduced in Canada as soon as possible. A voluntary rating system for community development would allow developers to develop communities based on a set of best practices and local governments (large and small) to provide guidance on what type of developments they would like to see happen in their jurisdictions.

LEED ND is an implementation and rating tool that complements regional and provincial planning strategies such as Ontario's Places to Grow and Metro Vancouver's Livable Region Strategic Plan.

Governments, industry and the public are looking for implementable solutions to address climate change, rising energy costs, and the increasing ecological footprint of our communities. They also recognize the importance of taking active steps towards improving public health and quality of life of Canadians. LEED ND will leverage the principles of good community and building design and development to achieve these goals.

Other key features of good urban design include:

- Compact
- Walkable
- Supportive pedestrian and bicycle environments
- Visible and accessible to green space networks
- Transit Supportive
- Diverse (mixed-use, mixed-housing)
- Durable
- Energy efficient & Water efficient
- Resource efficient
- Connected
- Integrated
- Local identity
- Vibrant public realm
- Engaged citizens

The Facts:

Good design encourages wise investments in buildings and infrastructure, reduces energy and water consumption, reduces demand on infrastructure services and allows communities to capitalize on local renewable energy resources.

The opportunities of sustainable infrastructure and design are best realized when planned at the community scale. The LEED Canada ND rating system is an important step toward facilitating this process.

Research has shown that living in a mixed-use environment within walking distance of shops and services results in increased walking and biking, which improve human cardiovascular and respiratory health and reduce the risk of hypertension and obesity. Networks of open spaces encourage physical activity and connections to the natural environment, while protecting environmental systems.

Win-Win for Public and Private Sectors:

- LEED Canada ND provides local government looking for significant and tangible sustainability initiatives with a credible, peer-reviewed rating system to guide community development projects in their jurisdictions. LEED Canada ND is an implementation tool that complements regional and local planning policy.
- For the private sector, the LEED brand offers differentiation and third-party legitimacy for the efforts made to build greener communities. Increasingly, municipalities are reducing fees or review periods associated with the approval process for community projects that can demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. LEED Canada for Neighborhood Development may assist projects that are still in the planning stages to gain the necessary approvals as expediently and cost-effectively as possible.

The Benefits of a Voluntary System!

- LEED Canada ND provides a voluntary tool to recognize development projects that successfully protect and enhance the overall health, natural environment, and quality of life of our communities.
- As a voluntary system, LEED Canada ND supports both the public and private sectors in their efforts for continued innovation and transformation within the built environment. The system is reviewed and updated every two to three years to allow for market change, research and innovation.

Scope:

Depending on development funding, the CaGBC will introduce LEED Canada ND once data from pilot projects conducted across Canada has been reviewed and the rating system has been adapted to the Canadian market (see App A for a list of pilot projects).

Key development tasks include:

- Adapting and translating the rating system and support tools, such as the Reference Guide and LEED Letter Templates, to the Canadian context;
- Developing and implementing submittal and certification processes and tools in both official languages;
- Hiring and managing consultants and contractors to undertake technical development and translation;
- Designing the LEED Canada ND Rating System and Reference Guide.

Developing a Canadian version of LEED ND offers several benefits:

- LEED Canada ND will be developed and implemented taking into account unique attributes in the Canadian marketplace ;
 - CaGBC will offer full LEED Canada ND registration, certification & technical support;
 - CaGBC will continue to provide a “one-stop shop” on green building information and rating systems in Canada.

Number of Registered Pilot Projects in Canada as of June 3, 2009: 24

Number of Provinces with Pilots: 4

Locations:

Batawa Community	Quinte West	ON
CFB Rockcliffe Redevelopment	Ottawa	ON
Currie Barracks	Calgary	AB
Dockside Green	Victoria	BC
Eco-Quartier, St-Marc Sur Richelieu	St-Marc Sur Richelieu	QC
Faubourg Boisbriand	Boisbriand	QC
Garrison Crossing	Chilliwack	BC
Harmony	Md Of Rocky View	AB
Metrogate	Toronto	ON
North Oakville East Secondary Plan	Oakville	ON
Preston Meadows	Cambridge	ON
Quartier Sur Le Fleuve	Montreal	QC
Rainbow Hill	Victoria	BC
Southeast False Creek Neighbourhood	Vancouver	BC
Squamish Waterfront	Squamish	BC
Strathearn Masterplan	Edmonton	AB
Technopole Angus	Montreal	QC
The Village at Griesbach, Stage 8	Edmonton	AB
Toronto Waterfront Area 1	Toronto	ON
Twinhills - Sustainable Tod Greenfield	Calgary	AB
UdeM - Campus Outremont	Montreal	QC
Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan	Vancouver	BC
Westhills Green Community	Langford	BC
Whistler Athletes Village	Whistler	BC

For information on LEED Canada ND please contact Mark Hutchinson at mhutchinson@cagbc.org