

LEEDing edge

LEADERSHIP in ENERGY and ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

THE DEFINITION OF GREEN

Increased awareness and interest in the environmental and health impacts of buildings in Canada has led to widespread demand for a common method of certifying the merits of a given building – a well-understood way to ensure the building has met a rigorous and carefully defined level of environmental performance.

In response to this demand, the Canada Green Building Council was formed by members from all segments of the Canadian building industry. They share the common goal of transforming the market toward more environmentally-sound shelter, by developing and delivering rigorous Canadian green rating systems. The aim has been to create rating tools that both recognize high health, energy and environmental performance, and are practical and easy to apply in real building projects.

LEED® Canada is an adaptation of the US Green Building Council's **L**eadership in **E**nergy and **E**nvironmental **D**esign Green Building Rating System (LEED), tailored specifically for Canadian climates, construction practices and regulations.

The core principles driving green building design are to balance environmental responsibility, resource efficiency, occupant comfort and well being, community development and the economics of building construction and operations.

Over their lifecycles, green buildings use less energy and water, generate less greenhouse gases and other pollutants, use materials wisely, and produce less waste. Occupants greatly benefit from the buildings excellent ventilation system, thermal comfort, and abundant natural light.

