

Green Building Rating Systems & Guidelines

How green is your building? It can be measured, thanks to the following interested organizations and enterprises.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®): A voluntary, consensus-based national rating system, LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. LEED standards are currently available for:

- [LEED-NC \(New Construction\)](#) - addresses new construction projects and major renovations, as well as K-12 schools, multi-unit residential buildings, manufacturing plants, laboratories, and many other building types
- [LEED-CI \(Commercial Interiors\)](#) - addresses commercial tenant improvement projects
- [LEED-EB \(Existing Buildings\)](#) - addresses building upgrades, and the ongoing operations and maintenance of buildings
- [LEED-CS \(Core and Shell\)](#) - designed for use on speculative commercial developments
- [LEED-H \(Homes\)](#) - addresses the single-family construction market
- [LEED-ND \(Neighborhood Developments\)](#) - takes a broader view of developments at the neighborhood scale

Find out about [LEED Application Guides](#) for Retail, Multiple Buildings/Campuses, Schools, Healthcare, Laboratories, and Lodging.

GreenPoint Guidelines, and GreenPoint Rated Program: Distributed and overseen by [Build It Green](#), a nonprofit advocacy organization that supports the development of green building markets in California, the GreenPoint Guidelines assess how environmentally friendly or "green" a home is. GreenPoint Rated assigns point values to recommended practices based on their benefits to the homeowner and the environment. The following guidelines provide the framework for the system:

- [New Home Construction Green Building Guidelines](#)
- [Home Remodeling Green Building Guidelines](#)
- [Multifamily Green Building Guidelines](#)

The [GreenPoint Rated program](#) now offers independent, highly trained third-party raters to check that green building measures were correctly incorporated into the project. Projects that receive a minimum number of "points" earn the GreenPoint Rated certificate.

Green Communities Criteria™: An integrated set of financial tools and incentives for affordable housing developers, the Green Communities Criteria were developed collaboratively by Enterprise and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), one of the nation's leading experts in green building and smart development, in consultation with other partners and experts in the field. Download a copy of the criteria [here](#) (registration required).

Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines: A whole-systems approach to the design, construction, and maintenance of the landscape, Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines support the integrity of one of California's most magnificent ecosystems, the San Francisco Bay watershed. Download the guidelines [here](#).