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What is LEED®?

LEED® is an acronym for the U.S. Green Building Council's "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" program, the nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction, and operation of high performance green homes and buildings. LEED® evaluates and assigns points to several key areas:

Innovation and Design Process (ID)

Includes special design methods, unique regional credits, measures not currently addressed in the Rating System, and/or exemplary performance.

Location and Linkages (LL)

Includes environmentally responsible placement of homes.

Sustainable Sites (SS)

The use of the entire property so as to minimize the project's impact on the site.

Water Efficiency (WE)

Addresses water conservation practices (indoor and outdoor) built into the home.

Energy and Atmosphere (EA)

Seeks improvement of energy efficiency, particularly in the building envelope and heating and cooling design.

Materials and Resources (MR)

Evaluates efficient utilization of materials, selection of environmentally preferable materials, and minimization of waste during construction.

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ)

Improvement of indoor air quality.

Awareness and Education (AE)

Education of the homeowner about the operations and maintenance of the green features of their LEED® home.

Documentation, information gathering, calculations and follow-through are all part of completing the LEED® requirements. Homes and buildings are certified under the LEED® program using the following certification levels:

Certification Level	LEED® for Homes Points Required
Certified	45-59
Silver	60-74
Gold	75-89
Platinum	90-128
Total Available Points	129