

What is Green Building Certification?

Worksheet

Green building certification is an independent verification (e.g., LEED, BREEAM, WELL) that a building meets specific sustainability criteria - energy, water, materials, indoor quality, and site impact - earning points toward a certification level.

Questions

- LEED is administered by
 - BRE
 - USGBC/GBCI
 - ISO
 - UN Environment
- The highest LEED certification level is
 - Certified
 - Silver
 - Gold
 - Platinum
- BREEAM originated in which country?
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - Germany
 - Australia
- Green building certification primarily verifies
 - Only the building's cost
 - Compliance with sustainability criteria across energy, water, materials, and health
 - The architect's portfolio
 - Only aesthetic design quality
- An office building installs high-efficiency HVAC, low-flow fixtures, and recycled-content materials, then submits documentation to USGBC. What is this process called?
- A hospital in London wants BREEAM 'Excellent' rating. What must the design team do?
- Two identical buildings: one earns LEED Gold, one earns no certification. What's the practical difference for the owner?
- Define: What does LEED stand for?
- Define: What does BREEAM stand for?
- Define: Who verifies green building certification?

Answer Key

1. B) USGBC/GBCI - LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is managed by the U.S. Green Building Council and GBCI.
2. D) Platinum - LEED levels ascend: Certified, Silver, Gold, Platinum - Platinum requires the most points.
3. B) United Kingdom - BREEAM was developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in the UK in 1990.
4. B) Compliance with sustainability criteria across energy, water, materials, and health - Certification systems score measurable sustainability performance, not cost or aesthetics.
5. Design team tracks credits in each LEED category Third-party review verifies documentation and performance USGBC awards points across categories Total points determine certification level (e.g., 60+ points = Gold)
6. Identify required credits across management, health & wellbeing, energy, and materials Commission a licensed BREEAM assessor Submit evidence at design and post-construction stages Achieve the minimum score threshold for 'Excellent' (typically 70%)
7. Certified building has independently verified performance claims Often qualifies for tax incentives, density bonuses, or green leases Typically has lower operating costs (energy/water) Markets to tenants seeking sustainability credentials
8. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - a USGBC rating system with Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels.
9. Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method - a UK-based rating system with Pass to Outstanding ratings.
10. An independent third-party body (e.g., USGBC/GBCI for LEED, BRE for BREEAM) reviews documentation and performance evidence.

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