

LEED 2009 Update: Answers to Your Burning Questions on Credentialing

Thank you for attending last night's presentation on LEED 2009. We appreciate all your questions and comments. I (with some help), have communicated with the GBCI Manager Credentialing, and have answers for some questions about the new credentials.

FYI, USGBC will be posting a new FAQ document with more information and clarification by Monday, January 19th. It would be advisable to periodically check the USGBC website for further updates.

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Q. If I am a LEED AP, do I need to "opt-in" to the new system this year, or do I have a full 2 years?

A. Legacy LEED APs can enroll in the new tiered system between June 30, 2009 and June 30, 2011. **You do not need to opt in (enroll) by June 2009.** GBCI will contact existing LEED APs with future developments. The \$50.00 credentialing maintenance fee for the first two-year Credentialing Maintenance Program (CMP) reporting period will be waived for current LEED APs who enroll in the new tiered system between June 30, 2009 and June 30, 2011. After June 30, 2011, the credential maintenance fee will be \$50 every two years.

Q. If I am a current LEED AP and I opt-in to the new system, do I then automatically become a LEED AP+, or do I need to take a specialty exam track (like the O&M) first?

A. A current LEED AP who enrolls in the new tiered system by agreeing to the Credentialing Maintenance Program (CMP), signing the disciplinary policy, and completing the prescriptive CMP requirements for the initial 2 year reporting period will automatically become a LEED AP+. Once you have enrolled, you will use one of the new specialty designations (O&M, BD&C, ID&C) after your name. However, enrollment must occur before June 2011.

No testing is required for Legacy APs to become AP+, although a portion of the CMP requirements will need to be in your area of specialty. Legacy APs may opt to take a specialty AP+ Tier II exam, but this is not required.

Current LEED APs will automatically be mapped to a specialty that corresponds to the exam track on which they were originally accredited:

1. LEED AP in Existing Buildings will be mapped over to LEED AP+ Operations and Maintenance (LEED AP+O&M)
2. LEED AP in New Construction will be mapped over to LEED AP+ Building Design and Construction (LEED AP+BD&C)
3. LEED AP in Commercial Interiors will be mapped over to LEED AP+ Interior Design and Construction (LEED AP+ID&C)

Current LEED APs may request to be mapped to a different specialty if it is more applicable to their current field of work.

If a current LEED AP decides not to enroll, they retain their LEED AP credential - they do not lose it and they do not become a LEED Green Associate. However, they will not be AP+.

Q. *Currently, some Legacy AP's work on different kinds of projects – NC, EB, CI. Will they need an AP+ in each category to get credit as the "AP" on the job? i.e., take multiple tests, and CMP's?*

A. This credit requirement has not been determined yet, however USGBC is taking a market-driven approach to which kind of AP+ is appropriate, or that a project or employer may want to hire for a project.

Q. *Any sense of what the CEU's will consist of?*

A. CEU's are being vetted by the Credentialing Committee and will go to the Board of Directors later this month. There should be an announcement in February.

Q. *What does "involvement in LEED projects" and "employed in sustainable field of work" for the LEED Green Associate?*

A. The LEED Green Associate is intended for the generalist who won't have specific project accountability. They may play more of a support role in a LEED project, such as an administrator, attorney, real estate appraiser, etc. People like students who have taken sustainability courses are also eligible. It is intended to give people the "30,000 feet" overview of LEED.

Q. *What does "professional experience on at least one LEED project" for AP+ mean?*

A. AP+ is intended for people with specific project accountability and expertise. E.g., project involvement verified by being listed on LEED online.