

Idea Exchange: Jump In! DESIGNING WITHIN THE RATING SYSTEMS

DEFINITIONS

- GBCI, Green Building Council Institute is the organization that provides third party certification and professional credentials, oversees credit interpretation ruling (CIR) and third party continuing education credits for certified professionals.
- LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system. Project must meet all requisite requirements and additional points. There are guidelines for New Construction, Core and Shell, Commercial Interiors, Schools, Healthcare, Retail, Existing Building: Operations and Maintenance, Homes, and Neighborhood Development. Projects with 40-49 points can be certified, 50-59 Silver, 60-79 Gold, projects with over 80 points are Platinum.
- LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE, guidelines and project certification authored by the International Living Futures Institute and the Cascadia Green Building Council.
- SITES, Sustainable Sites Initiative authored by United States Botanic Garden, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. SITES is in the pilot phase with 34 projects certified under the pilot program. Projects can earn one to four stars on a 250 point system.
- STAR COMMUNITY, Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities. This rating system looks at municipalities and involves multi-agency and community participation to complete. Assessment areas include built environment, climate and energy, economy & jobs, education, arts and community, equity and empowerment, health and safety, and natural systems. 3 star (200-399 points), 4 (400-599 points), and 5 star (over 600 points) certificates available, useful for multi agency buy-in.
- USGBC, United States Green Building Council developed the LEED Rating System.

Online Resources:

SITES: <http://www.sustainablesites.org>

USGBC: <http://www.usgbc.org>

Living Building Challenge: <http://living-future.org/lbc>

Star Community: <http://www.starcommunities.org>

Publications:

Calkins, Meg The Sustainable Sites Handbook: A Complete Guide to the Principles, Strategies, and Practices for Sustainable Landscapes, Hoboken, John Wiley & Sons Inc 2012

Federal guidelines for sustainable landscapes - good summary of sustainable landscape practices (based on SITES):

Guidance for Federal Agencies on Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/recommendations_on_sustainable_landscaping_practices.pdf

ELA Newsletter, October, 2014: 7 Reasons You Should be Using SITES v2: by Lisa Cowan, PLA, ASLA

: <http://www.ecolandscaping.org/10/restoration/7-reasons-you-should-be-using-sites-v2/>

SITES V2 Reference Guide (free version available): https://www.wildflower.org/sites_v2_purchase/?id=1291

Living Building Challenge v3 (free version): [http://living-](http://living-future.org/sites/default/files/reports/FINAL%20LBC%203_0_WebOptimized_low.pdf)

[future.org/sites/default/files/reports/FINAL%20LBC%203_0_WebOptimized_low.pdf](http://living-future.org/sites/default/files/reports/FINAL%20LBC%203_0_WebOptimized_low.pdf)