

Sustainability Standard Setting Bodies

Relevant Green Bond Market Information on Sustainability Standards Form¹

Forms filled in by standard setters should be sent back to greenbonds@icmagroup.org, for publication on the [Green Bond Principles Resource Centre](#).

Section 1. Basic Information

Organization name: USGBC /U.S, Green Building Council. <https://www.usgbc.org>

Name of sustainability standard:² *[specify as appropriate]*

LEED | Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design <https://www.usgbc.org/leed>

The LEED rating system is being developed and updated by the USGBC in consultation with its approximately 10,000 member companies and GBCI affiliations in regions around the world. LEED development is guided by the LEED Steering Committee and supported by volunteer Technical Advisory Groups.

Completion date of this form: 4 June 2021

Publication date of the standard: *[where appropriate, specify if it is an update and add reference to earlier relevant standard]*

- *Current Version LEED v4, released Nov. 2013*
- *Beta Version v4.1 available, released Jan. 2019*

Section 2. Detailed review

Standard setters are encouraged to provide the information below to the extent possible and use the comment section to explain the scope of their review.

1. Green Bond Principles (GBP) project categories relevant to the standard

Overall comment on section *(if applicable):*

¹ *The Form follows the characterisations of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes as set out in OECD Environment Working Papers No.62 – A characterisation of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes*

² *Use separate forms for each standard if multiple standards are set by the same standard setting body and the criteria of those standards differ significantly from one another*

Since 1999, LEED has provided a practical, holistic definition for high performance green buildings. LEED is based on a systematic governance process, including oversight by the LEED Steering Committee, input from Technical Advisory Groups, and ballot by the USGBC membership.

Over time, LEED rating systems expanded from an initial focus on new construction to systems across the lifecycle of the built environment, including spaces, buildings, communities, and cities. LEED has been used in more than 180 countries across a wide range of circumstances.

GBP³ Project categories that the standard applies to (for additional information on the GBP see appendix 1):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pollution prevention and control | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable water and wastewater management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change adaptation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green buildings |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Material and Resources
Indoor air quality |

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy or category, if other than GBPs:

Health, well-being, and occupant satisfaction.

2. Alignment with relevant international targets, thresholds and guidelines for sustainability

Please explain how alignment with international targets, thresholds and guidelines for sustainability are built into your governance frameworks and standard setting process. A non-exhaustive list of examples includes: ISEAL code compliant, alignment with EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities, Paris Climate Agreement, UN Global Compact, etc.

Please explain (if applicable):

LEED is a “standard of standard”. Alignment with high-quality leadership standards is fundamental to LEED. Notable alignments include:

- Kyoto protocol -> Paris agreement
- EU Green Deal: 50% carbon neutral by 2050
- EU Taxonomy (construction and real estate: Energy consumption, CO2 emission, renovation, efficiency)

³ <https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/green-bond-principles-gbp/>

- UN Sustainable Development Goals / UN SDGs
- ASHRAE 90.1 Energy Efficiency Standard
- ASHRAE 62 Indoor Air Quality
- California Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standard
- Green-e requirements for energy procurement
- International Plumbing Code requirements for indoor water use
- EN 15643 (means of integration of all three levels of sustainability)
- ISO 15392 (Sustainability)
- ISO Standard 52000 for GHG emissions
- Other EN/ISO standards
- Many others

3. Main Characteristics (please choose all options that apply to the standard)

Governance

a. Leadership or ownership (What type of institution runs the standard?)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit | <input type="checkbox"/> Public |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit | <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid (please provide more details below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Membership based |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multistakeholder | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

b. Standard scheme management

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The scheme owner has a sustainability-oriented mission or vision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The scheme owner has defined and makes publicly available its desired long-term sustainability impacts and strategy for achieving those impacts |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input on the intended sustainability impacts and possible unintended effects of the standards system | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On a regular basis, the scheme owner monitors and evaluates progress towards its sustainability impacts and accurately and publicly communicates the results |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The scheme owner applies adaptive management by using the learning from monitoring and evaluation to improve its standard and supporting strategies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The scheme owner carries out internal or external audits of its management system and operations at least annually and incorporates the findings |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The scheme owner makes information on the governance structure and income sources or financing structure of the scheme publicly available | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders have the possibility to participate in or provide formal input on the governance of the scheme |

The scheme is registered under ISEAL membership

c. Standard-setting characteristics

Documented procedures for the process under which each standard is developed or revised form the basis of the standard setting process

A regular review of the standard setting procedures is conducted (at least every 5 years)

Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are constituted by a balance of key stakeholders

Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are limited to members, but the procedure for becoming a member is transparent and non-discriminatory

Documented procedures for the process under which each standard is developed or revised shall be made available to stakeholders, at a minimum through the organisation's website

A regular review of the standard is conducted (at least every 5 years)

Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are open to all stakeholders

Other (*Please specify*):

Sustainability Claims and Communications

a. Communication Channel (*Who is using the standard to communicate, and who is the target of that communication?*)

Communication from:

Business (excluding financial institutions)

Government

Bank

Insurance Company

Development Bank

Investor

Asset owner (e.g. Building)

NGO

Other (*please specify*):

Communication to:

Business (excluding financial institutions)

Government

Bank

Insurance Company

Development Bank

Investor

Asset manager (e.g. Building)

Consumer

Other (*please specify*):

b. Means of communication (*What is the mode of communication to the target audience?*)

Seal (logo)

Declaration

Certificate

Trademark

Exception

Other (*please specify*): Plaque on building

c. Communication scope (*What activities are covered by the communication?*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and food | <input type="checkbox"/> Textile products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timber forest products | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-timber forest products (rubber, cork, bamboo) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper, packaging | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleaning products | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biofuels | <input type="checkbox"/> Luxury Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Sites & Locations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cosmetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indoor Air Quality/Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Services | |

Standard Characteristics

a. Monitoring and auditing⁴ (*Who has the ability to determine whether the standard is met and what degree of independence exists?*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard setter | <input type="checkbox"/> External certifier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Second party verifier |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accredited third party certifier/verifier | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |

GBCI is globally the only accredited 3rd party verification body for LEED.

b. Adoption of the standard (*To what extent are relevant organizations required to apply the standard?*)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voluntary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory (<i>please explain</i>):
LEED is required or encouraged in more 400 governmental policies. The USGBC Policy Library provides more information https://public-policies.usgbc.org/ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |

c. Sustainability characteristics

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental outcomes are clearly and explicitly defined in the standards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The standard exceeds regulatory requirements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The standard references relevant, existing national and/or international laws and regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |

d. Transparency (*To what extent is relevant information publicly available?*)

⁴ Whom has the ability to determine whether the standard is applied?

Final versions of the standard available to the public

Draft version of the standard available to the public

Public disclosure on standard setting process

Public disclosure on assessments of compliance with the standard

Public disclosure of compliance by standard user (e.g., the LEED Project Library)

Public disclosure on those complying with the standard (organizations and the level/type of compliance achieved)

Final versions of the standard in additional languages are available to the public

Other (*please specify*):

e. Methods of environmental assessment (*How comprehensive is the standard in accounting for environmental impact?*)

Life cycle approach (please specify which environmental goals)

Operating/process/practice approach (please specify which environmental goals):

Performance based or impact approach (please specify which environmental goals)

Other (please specify method and which environmental goals it applies to):

Please explain any requirements to embed mechanisms/tools for future reporting, requirements to report on selected criteria and reporting scope, as well as the environmental goals being assessed:

LEED projects must use the Arc platform (www.arcskoru.com) to measure, track, and score operational performance. This is stipulated as a Minimum Program Requirement and required to remain eligible for recertification. Arc is a business unit of USGBC and GBCI.

Arc provides daily information about the overall performance of LEED projects. This currently includes more than 20,000 active projects. Information is available from the following link www.arcskoru.com/impact

f. Resolving complaints

The standard-setting organization shall make impartial and documented efforts to resolve procedural complaints related to standard-setting, based on a publicly document complaints resolution mechanism

The standard-setting organization shall disclose, at least to interested parties, decisions taken on procedural complaints

Other (*please specify*):

g. Standard focus (*To what type of processes do the standards apply?*)

Product related process and production methods (please specify):

Non product related processes and production methods (please specify):

LEED provides a broad-based definition for high-performance, green spaces, buildings, and places.

LEED acknowledges international codes, standards and product certifications as documentation, e.g. ASHRAE, EN, ISO, FSC/PEFC etc.

LEED consists of minimum project requirements, prerequisites, and credits.

These criteria encompass energy and emissions, water, waste, location, and indoor environmental quality.

LEED certification is award based on third-party verified point achievement at four levels, Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

Services (please specify):

The Arc platform (a business unit of USGBC and GBCI) tracks and communicates information on LEED project performance. Daily updates are available on www.arcskoru.com/impact

Other (please specify):

h. Standard scope:

International

Regional

National

Jurisdictional

Other (Please specify):

i. Activities beyond certification:

Platform for discussion and collaboration amongst members and certified entities

Platform for discussion and collaboration amongst other standards addressing the same sector/activity/topic

4. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (please choose all options that apply to the standard)

Overall comment on section (please rank the SDGs by level of contribution of the standard and specify the scale of contribution to each of the relevant SDGs):

Through LEED's project checklist, clients/project teams can address every single SDG, if selected and pursued, e.g.:

- Pilot Credit = Social equity within the project team: SDG1
- Credit: Water and Energy Metering: SDG12
- Credit: LEED for Neighborhood Development Location: SDG11

More information about alignment between LEED and SDGs is available in the following article:
<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/sustainable-development-goals-101>

SDG 1

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 4

SDG 5

SDG 6

SDG 7

SDG 8

SDG 9

SDG 10

SDG 11

SDG 12

SDG 13

SDG 14

SDG 15

SDG 16

SDG 17

No part of this Standard Setters Feedback Form, nor the fact of its reference in any other document, should form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract or commitment or investment decision whatsoever. No representation or warranties, express or implied, are made as to, and no reliance, in whole or in part, should be placed on, the accuracy, fairness or completeness of the information presented or contained in this Form and such information has not been independently verified. This Form does not constitute a prospectus, placement document or other offering document in whole or in part. The information contained herein does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any Securities by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offering or solicitation.