

Innovation & Design Process

SS	WE	EA	MR	EQ	ID
Overview					

Sustainable design strategies and measures are constantly evolving and improving. New technologies are continually introduced to the marketplace and up-to-date scientific research influences building design strategies. The purpose of this LEED category is to recognize projects for innovative building features and sustainable building knowledge.

Occasionally, a strategy results in building performance that greatly exceeds those required in an existing LEED credit. Other strategies may not be addressed by any LEED prerequisite or credit but warrant consideration for their sustainability benefits. In addition, LEED is most effectively implemented as part of an integrated design process, and this category addresses the use of a LEED Accredited Professional in the facilitation of that process

Innovation & Design Process Credit Characteristics

Table 1 shows which credits were substantially revised for LEED-NC Version 2.2 and which project team members are likely to carry decision-making responsibility for each credit. Innovation Credits that deal strictly with design phase decisions and inclusions (that will not be affected or modified during the construction process) are eligible to be submitted in the Design Phase Submittal. Innovation Credits that rely on the completion of construction to confirm performance must be submitted as a Construction Phase Submittal. The decision-making responsibility matrix is not intended to exclude any party, rather to emphasize those credits that are most likely to require strong participation by a particular team member.

Overview of LEED® Credits

ID Credit 1
Innovation in Design

ID Credit 2
LEED® Accredited Professional

There are 4 points available in the Innovation in Design category.

Table 1: ID Credit Characteristics

Credit	Significant Change from LEED-NC v2.1	Design Submittal	Construction Submittal	Owner Decision-Making	Design Team Decision-Making	Contractor Decision-Making
IDc1.1: Innovation in Design		*	*	*	*	*
IDc1.2: Innovation in Design		*	*	*	*	*
IDc1.3: Innovation in Design		*	*	*	*	*
IDc1.4: Innovation in Design		*	*	*	*	*
IDc2: LEED Accredited Professional			*	*	*	*

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Innovation in Design

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Credits 1.1–1.4					

Intent

To provide design teams and projects the opportunity to be awarded points for exceptional performance above the requirements set by the LEED-NC Green Building Rating System and/or innovative performance in Green Building categories not specifically addressed by the LEED-NC Green Building Rating System.

Requirements

Credit 1.1 (1 point) In writing, identify the intent of the proposed innovation credit, the proposed requirement for compliance, the proposed submittals to demonstrate compliance, and the design approach (strategies) that might be used to meet the requirements.

Credit 1.2 (1 point) Same as Credit 1.1

Credit 1.3 (1 point) Same as Credit 1.1

Credit 1.4 (1 point) Same as Credit 1.1

Potential Technologies & Strategies

Substantially exceed a LEED-NC performance credit such as energy performance or water efficiency. Apply strategies or measures that demonstrate a comprehensive approach and quantifiable environment and/or health benefits.

1–4 points

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Credits 1.1–1.4					

Summary of Referenced Standard

There is no standard referenced for this ID Credit. Please refer to the Summary of Referenced Standard section within each LEED-NC credit for relevant standards.

Approach and Implementation

There are two types of innovation strategies that qualify under this credit. The first type includes those strategies that greatly exceed the requirements of existing LEED credits. For instance, a project that incorporates recycled materials or water efficiency measures that greatly exceed the requirements of their respective LEED credits would be appropriate for this credit.

As a general rule of thumb, ID credits for exemplary performance are awarded for doubling the credit requirements and/or achieving the next incremental percentage threshold. For instance, an ID credit for exemplary performance in water use reduction (WE Credit 1) would require a minimum of 40% savings (20% = WE Credit 1.1; 30% = WE Credit 3.2, etc.). Exemplary performance is not available for all credits in LEED-NC. Exceptional performance thresholds are listed in the credit sections of the Reference Guide for eligible points.

The second type of innovation strategies are those that are not addressed by any existing LEED credits. Only those strategies that demonstrate a comprehensive approach and have significant, measurable environmental benefits are applicable. For example, simple signage in a building would not be considered a significant educational effort by itself. But a visitor's center and interactive display, coupled with a website and video would be an appropriate level of effort for earning an innovation credit.

There are three basic criteria for achieving an innovation credit for a category not specifically addressed by LEED:

1. The project must demonstrate quantitative performance improvements for environmental benefit (establishing a baseline of standard performance for comparison to the final design).
2. The process or specification must be comprehensive. For example, a team that is considering applying for an innovation credit for a green housekeeping program would need to demonstrate that the program applies to the entire project being certified under LEED. Measures that address a limited portion of a project, or are not comprehensive in other ways, may not be eligible in this category.
3. The formula that your project develops for the innovation credit must be applicable to other projects.

Innovation credits awarded for one project at a specific point in time do not constitute automatic approval for similar strategies in a future project.

Innovation credits are not awarded for the use of a particular product or design strategy if the technology aids in the achievement of an existing LEED credit.

Approved ID credits may be pursued by any LEED project, but the project team must sufficiently document the achievement using the LEED credit equivalence process.

Calculations

Please refer to the Calculations section within each LEED-NC credit for appropriate calculation submittals.

Submittal Documentation

These credits may be submitted as part of the **Design or Construction Submittal** depending on the credit requirements and performance for each proposal.

The following project data and calculation information is required to document credit compliance using the v2.2 Submittal Templates:

- ☐ Provide the specific title for the ID credit being pursued.
- ☐ Provide a narrative statement of the Credit Intent.
- ☐ Provide a narrative statement describing the Credit Requirements.
- ☐ Provide a detailed narrative describing the project's approach to achievement of the credit. This narrative should include a description of the quantifiable environmental benefits of the credit proposal.
- ☐ Provide copies of any specific construction drawings or exhibits that will serve to illustrate the project's approach to the credit. (Note: this may not be applicable to all ID credit proposals.)

A separate set of submittals is required for each point pursued and no single strategy is eligible for more than one point. Four independent sustainability measures may be applied to ID credits.

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Credits 1.1–1.4					

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Credits 1.1–1.4					

LEED Accredited Professional

SS	WE	EA	MR	EQ	ID
Credit 2					

Intent

To support and encourage the design integration required by a LEED-NC green building project and to streamline the application and certification process.

Requirements

At least one principal participant of the project team shall be a LEED Accredited Professional (AP).

Potential Technologies & Strategies

Educate the project team members about green building design & construction and application of the LEED Rating System early in the life of the project. Consider assigning the LEED AP as a facilitator of an integrated design & construction process.

1 point

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Credit 2					

Summary of Referenced Standard

There is no standard referenced for this ID Credit.

Approach and Implementation

To become a LEED Accredited Professional, the LEED Accreditation Exam must be successfully passed. To prepare for the exam, it is helpful to attend a LEED Workshop offered by, or authorized by, the USGBC. Workshops include details on prerequisites and credits, calculation and documentation examples, and case studies from projects that have achieved certification.

For more information on workshops and the Accreditation Exam, visit the LEED section of the USGBC website at www.usgbc.org.

Exemplary Performance

This credit is not eligible for exemplary performance under the Innovation in Design Process.

Submittal Documentation

This credit is submitted as part of the **Construction Submittal**.

The following project data is required to document credit compliance using the v2.2 Submittal Templates:

- ☐ Provide the name of the LEED AP.
- ☐ Provide the name of the LEED AP's company.
- ☐ Provide a brief description of the LEED AP's project role(s).
- ☐ Provide a copy of the LEED AP certificate.

Calculations

There are no calculations associated with this credit.

Considerations

LEED Accredited Professionals have the expertise required to design a building to LEED standards and to coordinate the documentation process that is necessary for LEED certification. The Accredited Professional understands the importance of integrated design and the need to consider interactions between the prerequisites and credits and their respective criteria. Architects, engineers, consultants, owners and others who have a strong interest in sustainable building design are all appropriate candidates for accreditation. The Accredited Professional should be the champion for the project's LEED application and this person should be an integral member of the project design team.