

LEED-NC 2009

Differences between LEED® 2009 v3 versus v2.2

In June 2009 the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) published LEED-NC v3. This version 3 replaces the earlier version 2.2.

The most important change in LEED 2009 v3 is the acceptance by the USGBC that climate change is the most important aspect of environmental impact. This is highlighted by the increase in the number of the available points under the Energy and Atmosphere category, specifically from 17 points in v2 to 35 points in v3. This means that more points are awarded to credits which reflect a building's lower impact on the environment. Of particular importance is the increase in points for energy efficiency, from 10 points under v2 to 19 points under v3. (See section on *Optimizing Energy Performance under the Energy and Atmosphere category.*¹)

■ ¹LEED-NC 2009.

LEED 2009 also seeks to harmonise the scoring of credits relating to common criteria between the following:

- LEED-NC which is used for construction of new offices and institutional buildings such as libraries, churches etc.
- LEED-Schools which is used for all educational facilities, and
- LEED-Core and Shells which is used for commercial office buildings, retail, warehousing and medical facilities etc.

Each of the above rating systems are now scored on a 100 point standard, with additional bonus points awarded as follows:

- Innovation and Design: 6 points
- Regional Priority: 4 points

The latter category provides bonus points that relate to or address local environmental issues.

The maximum points awarded in each category have been amended as follows:

Comparison of maximum points awarded in each category between LEED-NC v2.2 and v3.		
Category	LEED-NC v2.2	LEED-NC v3 (April/09)
sustainable sites	14	26
water efficiency	5	10
energy and atmosphere	17	35
materials and resources	13	14
indoor environmental quality	15	15
Total points:	64	100

As a result of the increase in the total number of points available under the LEED rating system, the minimum points requirement for LEED certification has increased from 26 points under v2 to 40 points under v3. This means that the points required for Silver, Gold and Platinum certification have increased as well.

Comparison of LEED certification between LEED-NC v2.2 and v3.		
Category	LEED-NC v2.2	LEED-NC v3 (April/09)
Certified	26 - 32 points	40 - 49 points
Silver	33 - 38 points	50 - 59 points
Gold	39 - 51 points	60 - 79 points
Platinum	52 - 69 points	80+ points

One of the advantages of the new standardised 100 point rating system is that the categories are not only weighted to place more importance and impact on certain environmental issues, but it is also to compare the various types of buildings certified under the various rating systems with each other.

For further information on the requirements of LEED-NC 2009 and the earning of LEED credits by building with ARXX ICFs, please contact our technical department at 1.800.293.3210 x5 or e-mail us at info@arxx.com.

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