

CMP GUIDE



CREDENTIAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Updated September 2016

Credential Maintenance Program Guide



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Information in this Guide represents current policies and procedures for GBCI's Credential Maintenance Program. Information in this Guide supersedes information contained in any previously published Guides.

All information and guidelines are subject to change.



Please read and understand the entire Guide including all policies, procedure and consequences.

ABOUT THE GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION INC.

Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) is the premier organization independently recognizing excellence in green business industry performance and practice globally.

Established in 2008, GBCI exclusively administers project certifications and professional credentials and certificates within the framework of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating systems as well as the PEER standard for power systems, the WELL building standard, the Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) program, the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES®) and the GRESB benchmark, which is used by institutional investors to improve the sustainability performance of the global property sector.

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Reporting Period

Credentials are maintained in 2-year cycles, or reporting periods, starting when the credential is earned (based on exam or enrollment date) and ending 2 years minus 1 day from the start date. The purpose of credential maintenance is to encourage learning experiences that demonstrate continued competency and up-to-date industry knowledge.

For example:

Exam or enrollment date/ reporting period start date	Reporting period end date	Next reporting period start date	Next reporting period end date
August 15, 2011	August 14, 2013	August 15, 2013	August 14, 2015

At the end of the 2-year reporting period, LEED, SITES and WELL APs are required to maintain their credential. If professionals do not complete and report their continuing education (CE) hours, the credential expires.

General CE Hours

General CE hours are defined as activities that are relevant to general green building concepts such as environmental sustainability or human health and wellness, but not specific to any rating system or standard.

All GBCI credential holders must earn all general CE hours to maintain their credential, and any activity which counts as general CE hours for one credential, can count for the others as long as the hours were completed during the credential holder's reporting period.

	General CE Hours Required	Rating System-specific CE Hours Required	Total CE Hours Required
LEED Green Associate	12	3	15
LEED AP with specialty*	24	6	30
SITES AP	24	6	30
WELL AP	24	6	30

**LEED APs with multiple specialties complete 6 LEED-specific hours for each additional specialty.*

GBCI recommends using the LEED, SITES and/or WELL credit categories/concepts as a guideline to help you determine what constitutes general green building topics:

LEED

Integrative Process: Strategies that support high-performance outcomes through early analysis of the interrelationships among systems.

Location & transportation: Strategies that encourage compact development, alternative transportation, and connection with amenities.

Sustainable Sites: Strategies that minimize the impact on ecosystems and water-resources.

Water Efficiency: Strategies that promote smarter use of water, inside and out, to reduce potable water consumption.

Energy & Atmosphere: Strategies that promote better building energy performance through innovative strategies.

Materials & Resources: Strategies that encourage using sustainable building materials and reducing waste.

Indoor Environmental Quality: Strategies that promote better indoor air quality and access to daylight and views.

Pilot Credits: Strategies promoted by any of the existing pilot credits.

SITES

Site Context: Strategies that promote, protect and restore essential ecosystem services.

Pre-Design Assessment + Planning: Strategies that support high-performance outcomes through early site analysis of the interrelationships among systems via an integrative team process.

Site Design – Water: Strategies designed to conserve water, maximize the use of precipitation, and protect water quality, transforming stormwater into an amenity.

Site Design – Soil + Vegetation: Strategies that develop healthy soil and appropriate and beneficial use of plants and vegetation.

Site Design – Materials Selection: Strategies that encourage using sustainable plants, healthier soils and materials and reducing waste

Site Design – Human Health + Well-Being: Strategies that renew a sense of environmental stewardship to promote physical activity, restorative mental experiences, and social interaction.

Construction: Strategies to protect and enhance air and water quality.

Operations + Maintenance: Strategies that maximize the site’s long-term potential in providing benefits of healthy functioning ecosystems.

Education + Performance Monitoring: Promote sustainable practices through strategies to gather and disseminate information.

The WELL Building Standard™

Air: Strategies that promote clean air by reducing sources of indoor air pollution.

Water: Strategies that promote safe and clean water through filtration techniques and regular testing.

Nourishment: Strategies to promote better eating habits and food culture.

Light: Strategies to minimize disruption of the body’s circadian system, support sleep quality, and provide visual acuity through lighting.

Fitness: Strategies that integrate physical activity into everyday life and discourage sedentary behavior.

Comfort: Strategies that create distraction-free, productive, and comfortable indoor environments.

Mind: Strategies that provide a physical environment that optimizes cognitive and emotional health.

LEED-specific

LEED-specific is defined as an activity that has an explicit connection to credit categories, credits and/or prerequisites found in any of the current LEED rating systems. For LEED APs, LEED-specific CE hours must relate directly to their specialty.

Examples of LEED-specific activities include working on LEED projects, volunteering on rating system development, authoring LEED case studies, developing and/or teaching coursework on the LEED rating system.

TYPICAL BUILDING TASK	GREEN BUILDING TASK	LEED-SPECIFIC TASK
Installation of lighting controls	Installation of daylight responsive lighting	Installation of daylight responsive lighting controls in all regularly occupied spaces within 15 feet of windows and under skylights to meet EAc1.2 in LEED for Interior Design and Construction: Commercial Interiors

SITES-specific

SITES-specific is defined as an activity that has an explicit connection to prerequisites and/or credits found in the SITES Rating System.

Examples of SITES-specific activities include working on SITES projects, volunteering on SITES Rating System development, authoring SITES case studies, developing and/or teaching coursework on the SITES Rating System.

TYPICAL BUILDING TASK	HEALTH + WELLNESS TASK	SITES-SPECIFIC TASK
Design planting area for site landscape.	Utilize native plants to foster habitat for local wildlife	Conserve existing appropriate native plants and/or install new native plants that according to SITES Native Plants Calculator equal a native plant score of at least 20% to earn 3 points under Credit 4.6 Conserve and use native plants in the SITES Rating System

WELL-specific

WELL-specific is defined as an activity that has an explicit connection to concepts and/or features found in the WELL Building Standard.

Examples of WELL-specific activities include working on WELL projects, volunteering on WELL Building Standard development, authoring WELL case studies, developing and/or teaching coursework on the WELL Building Standard.

TYPICAL BUILDING TASK	HEALTH + WELLNESS TASK	WELL-SPECIFIC TASK
Design lighting system for building	Design lighting system for building to take into account lighting impact on human health	Design lighting system for building so that at least 250 equivalent melanopic lux is present within at 75% or more of workstations to meet Feature 54 – Circadian Lighting Design in the WELL Building Standard

For LEED Credential Holders		For SITES Credential Holders		For WELL Credential Holders	
CE Type	Counts as	CE Type	Counts as	CE Type	Counts as
General CE	General CE	General CE	General CE	General CE	General CE
LEED-specific	LEED-specific	LEED-specific	General CE	LEED-specific	General CE
WELL-specific	General CE	WELL-specific	General CE	WELL-specific	WELL-specific
SITES-specific	General CE	SITES-specific	SITES-specific CE	SITES-specific	General CE

Activities

The Credential Maintenance Program has been carefully adapted to the daily lives of LEED, SITES and WELL APs. Earn hours through these activities related to green building and health and wellness.

1. Continuing Education (unlimited)

Education should be relevant to green building, which includes environmental sustainability and human health and wellness. Education for general CE hours can come from learning activities that are approved by GBCI, or from non-approved courses. Examples include college and university courses, simulated project participation, workshops, courses, and conference events. Please note that courses can only be counted towards credential maintenance once, and the same course cannot be reported in multiple reporting periods.

Both participants and instructors receive 1 CE hour per hour of educational contact time, and those who develop content also receive 2 CE hours for each course they develop.

Under the continuing education activity type, rating system-specific credit can only be achieved through GBCI-approved education designated as LEED-specific, SITES-specific or WELL-specific.

2. Project Participation (unlimited)

Work on a project* registered for LEED, SITES and WELL certification count for 1 rating system-specific CE hour** per credit or feature for credential holders working on projects certified under the system or standard related to their credential. Project administrators can claim an additional 2 CE hours per project.

**The intent of project participation is to work on projects that are intended to be implemented. This excludes LEED project participation provided through education programs.*

***Work on any project registered for EDGE, Parksmart and PEER certification can count towards general CE hours for GBCI credential holders.*

3. Authorship (unlimited)

Authorship is a credited contribution to a print or digital publication and is worth 3 CE hours for published article and 10 CE hours for published book. LEED-specific hours are designated for authoring that is directly related to LEED technical content. SITES-specific hours are designated for authoring that is directly related to SITES technical content. WELL-specific hours are designated for authoring that is directly related to WELL technical content.

4. Volunteering (no more than 50% of total CE hours)

Volunteering includes participation in leadership positions, steering committees, or working groups, LEED, SITES, or WELL credential exam development and maintenance activities, or local USGBC community boards and committees or other volunteer organizations that support the LEED and SITES systems, or the WELL Building Standard. Volunteers can claim 1 hour per hour of participation. LEED-specific hours are designated for volunteering that is directly related to LEED technical content. WELL-specific hours are designated for volunteering that is directly related to WELL technical content. SITES-specific hours are designated for volunteering that is directly related to SITES.

	Continuing Education	Project Participation	Authoring	Volunteering
General	Related to green building	*Registered project	Credited contribution to published work	Activities that support USGBC and/or IWBI
LEED-specific	Related to LEED technical content	LEED project	Related to LEED technical content	Related to LEED technical content
SITES-specific	Related to SITES technical content	SITES Project	Related to SITES technical content	Related to SITES technical content
WELL-specific	Related to WELL technical content	WELL project	Related to WELL technical content	Related to WELL technical content

**Need to exclude projects not intended to be implemented*

Reporting Credential Maintenance

To self-report CMP activities for LEED, log into your [Credentials account](#) and select Report CMP Activity. To self-report CMP activities for SITES, log into your [SITES Online account](#). To self-report CMP activities for WELL, log into your [WELL Online account](#).

Renewal

Renewal is available one year into your reporting period. Within 24 hours of renewing, your next reporting period will appear on your main menu and your badge will be updated in the usgbc.org People directory. You cannot earn or report CE hours until your new reporting period begins.

You will receive notifications that your reporting period is ending. You have 90 days after the end of your reporting period to renew without penalty, but all CMP activities must be earned between the reporting period start and end dates.

To renew for LEED:

1. Report required CE for LEED hours in your [Credentials](#) account, ensuring you have met all requirements.
2. Follow onscreen instructions.
3. Pay the renewal fee ([Click here](#) for pricing details).

To renew for SITES:

1. Report your required CE hours through your [SITES Online](#) account ensuring you have met all requirements.
2. Pay the renewal fee ([Click here](#) for pricing details).

To renew for WELL:

1. Report your required CE hours through your [WELL Online](#) account, ensuring you have met all requirements.
2. Pay the renewal fee ([Click here](#) for pricing details).

Maintaining Multiple Specialties

LEED APs can maintain multiple specialties. LEED APs designate their “primary specialty,” the specialty in which they will complete the majority of their CE hours. All other specialties will be designated as “secondary specialties.”

SITES and WELL do not have multiple specialties, but a professional could be a LEED AP, as well as a SITES or WELL AP.

If you renew a LEED credential early and earn another LEED specialty, your CMP requirements for that specialty do not begin until your new reporting period.

Rules for maintaining multiple specialties:

- a. If you are a LEED AP with multiple specialties you are not required to earn any additional general CE hours beyond the 24 per reporting period required for your primary specialty. However, for each additional specialty you will need to complete 6 additional hours of LEED-specific CE per reporting period for that specialty, (e.g., 24 general hours for LEED for Building Design and Construction (primary specialty), plus 6 LEED-specific hours; plus 6 additional LEED-specific hours for LEED for Building Operations and Maintenance (secondary specialty) = 36 hours in total.) ([See wording on page 1 of current CMP Guide.](#))

- b. If you are a LEED AP and you earn the SITES AP or WELL AP, all of your LEED CE hours (including LEED-specific) can count towards your 24 general CE hours for SITES and/or WELL, so you would only need an additional 6 SITES-specific hours and/or WELL-specific hours. This is like adding a LEED specialty.
- c. Likewise, all hours reported for SITES or WELL CMP (including SITES-specific and WELL-specific), can be counted as LEED general CE hours.

Fees

GBCI credential holders are responsible for paying a biennial CMP renewal fee at the time of renewal. LEED Credential holders can [click here](#) for pricing details. SITES APs can [click here](#) for pricing. WELL APs, can [click here](#) for pricing. Payments will be accepted only in US dollars.

Past Due

Credential holders will have 90 days to renew and report hours previously earned within their reporting period, which starts after the reporting period has ended. You will not be able to earn hours during this time. If you don't report enough hours and successfully renew by the end of the past due period, your credential will expire.

Expiration

GBCI professional credentials will expire if the credential holder fails to complete the CMP requirements. Renewal must be submitted no later than 90 days after their reporting period end date.

Reviews

GBCI will audit a percentage of all credential holders at regular intervals to ensure that they have the documentation to substantiate their claims of continuing education. GBCI also reserves the right to review any reported CE hours at any time. If you are selected for an audit, we will ask you to verify your completed activities with the appropriate documentation, so be sure to save documentation of hours earned. During this process, GBCI hopes to get a better sense of your experience pursuing CMP activities.

Failure to Comply

Each LEED, SITES and WELL credential holder is responsible for demonstrating full compliance with CMP guidelines. Unsupported, misstated, or fraudulent reporting of CE hours is a violation of GBCI's Disciplinary and Exam Appeals Policy. Such reporting is cause for action by GBCI and may be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of the GBCI credential. See [GBCI's Disciplinary and Exam Appeals Policy](#) for more information.

Failure to fulfill and/or report the required CE hours for the CMP reporting period will result in expiration of the credential(s).

Extensions

If unforeseen circumstances prevent you from being able to complete your credential maintenance in your 2-year reporting period, you may request a waiver or extension. Situations that could be recognized by GBCI as hardship include:

- Long term unemployment
- Military deployment
- Health problems
- Death in the family

This list is not exhaustive nor do these circumstances guarantee a waiver or extension. Written requests with supporting documentation must be received at least 30 days before the end of your reporting period. GBCI reviews requests on a case-by-case basis and only grants waivers or extensions in situations where you were prevented from completing your CMP.

Reinstatement

To regain a credential after expiration, one must apply, register, and retest as a new candidate. Such individuals are responsible for all applicable fees.