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MAY/JUNE 2005

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LEED® ACCREDITATION EXAM PREPARATION SEMINAR

The LEED Accreditation Exam Preparation Seminars are organized by the Programs Committee of USGBC-LVRC. The 3-4 hour seminar is designed to help those interested in becoming LEED® Accredited Professionals prepare for the exam.



The upcoming LEED® Accreditation Exam Preparation Seminar will be held on June 4, 2005.

Stay tuned to our website:
www.usgbclv.org
for more information!



USGBC-LV Mission Statement:

To promote and advance healthy, sustainable, socially responsible, and economically viable built environments through collaboration, diversity, education, networking, and environmental stewardship.

The seminar covers:

- General Introduction to LEED and USGBC
- LEED Credits
- Certification Process
- LEED Resources
- Exam Preparation Tips
- Sample Questions

And much more

REQUIRED LEED SILVER ON ALL STATE FUNDED BUILDINGS IN NEVADA?

Is this true? Not quite yet, but it may be soon if Assembly Bill 385 passes the 73rd Nevada Legislature Session. On March 24, Assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani introduced AB 385. The intent of the Bill is to revise provisions governing building and zoning and create incentives and standards for green buildings. Shortly after AB 385 was introduced, our chapter testified before the Assembly Government Affairs Committee in support of AB 385 with our own suggested comments and amendments. The USGBC – Las Vegas Regional Chapter worked with Assemblywoman Giunchigliani and other organizations to educate and advocate for green building standards in Nevada while the amendments were being crafted. At the time of this writing, AB 385 passed from the Assembly Government Affairs Committee as amended on April 15 and is now awaiting a re-write and approval by the Assembly Government Affairs Committee Chair. From this expected approval, AB 385 will head to the floor to be heard by the House.

If AB 385 does become law, Nevada will be only the second state that has a law mandated by state legislature requiring LEED Silver as a minimum on all state funded buildings. Washington is the first state to require such a law, which was signed by the Governor on April 8, 2005.

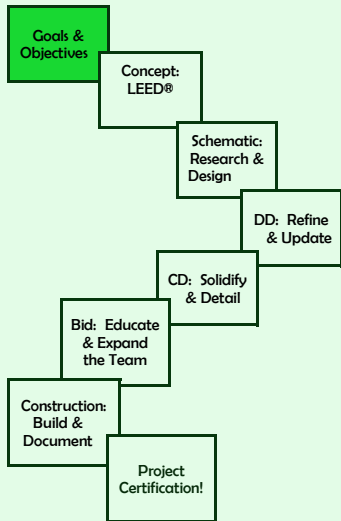
The Las Vegas Regional Chapter will keep you posted on AB 385 as it unfolds on the House floor.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER WINNER!!!

Congratulations to Robert Anthony Carr for being the winner of the NAME THE NEWSLETTER Contest. As you can see the newsletter has been named GreenSpeak. For naming the newsletter Mr. Carr receives a \$100 gift certificate to The Capital Grille. The Communication Committee would like to thank all of you who participated in the NAME THE NEWSLETTER Contest. In addition, we would like to thank Home & Hearth Magazine for donating the gift certificate.

BUILDINGS & SPACES LEED® AP TOPIC

Contribution by
Mike Purtil, AIA, LEED® AP
Prasad Vaidya, LEED® AP



Contribute your experience to the newsletter

If your office (or you're the Owner!) has gone through the steps to register, build, or obtain certification for a LEED® project (none have been certified in the Valley as of this writing), please share your stories through the USGBC Las Vegas Regional Chapter's Communications Committee @ communications@usgbcnv.org.

We will publish them in accordance with the outline provided in this inaugural issue!



LEED® Goal Setting

A "green building" can mean different things to different people, depending on their occupation, experience and locale. To an architect it may mean using building materials found on-site. A building operator may see a green building as an efficient and low-maintenance building, while a user may want a green building to provide a healthy interior environment. The LEED rating system evaluates a building on all of these fronts and then some. Points are achieved by designing and constructing the building to fulfill the criteria specified in the LEED rating system. Buildings are rated on their level of achievement based on their total point score.

LEED has brought clarity to the process of sustainable design and has increased its recognition in the mainstream. Concurrently, it has also created the opportunity for "chasing" or "buying" points for the sake of getting the point without bringing any real value to the project. The point score is an abstraction of an assumed value. The same score can be achieved by pursuing different credits, some of which are relevant to the project while some are not. So, a goal setting exercise for LEED should primarily identify credits that are important to the project, and at the same time, identify those that have no relevance to the project. Obviously, the earlier in the design process this is done, the better; preferably before any design concepts are developed. But how early? Site selection, parking requirements, and the building program are some items that can be influenced by LEED requirements. These are beyond the scope of design decisions, and the response to sustainability should be considered earlier than concept design.

One method of goal setting that has been used successfully is the workshop format, or "eco-charette". This is an open, facilitated session, structured around several topics that include introduction to sustainable design, background information on the project, individual philosophies of sustainability, sharing of past experiences, and discussing priorities for sustainable design. It is important to structure part of the discussion to allow thinking of sustainability issues outside the framework of the LEED requirements. When building program, site and sustainable design are discussed together, some teams are able to find synergies and opportunities where all sides benefit from the approach taken.

It is important to list and discuss the "Credit Intents" instead of the credit requirements to discover the group's priorities towards green buildings. This keeps the initial discussion away from feasibility issues and allows a broader level of thinking. Divide credits into those that address local environmental impacts (such as erosion or heat island effect) versus those that address global impacts (such as ozone layer depletion or global warming). Prioritize the relevant local impacts. For example, heat island effect and water efficiency may be important for southern Nevada, but the benefits of compact urban development may be less important for a project. Prioritize the credit intents and then transfer the priorities and relevancies to the credits to arrive at a point goal. Be sure to identify the irrelevant points as well. This part of the exercise can often take up to 4 hours. If a team wants to spend more time discussing design approaches as well, plan for more time.

A few things can make the goal setting exercise more meaningful. Assign champions, people within each organization including the owner's, who will respond to, coordinate and move the sustainable design issues forward. Use the experience of the team members to translate as many credit requirements as possible into tangible design goals. For example, achieving the daylighting credit can be translated to a window to floor area ratio goal for the architectural design; site disturbance credits can be translated to a permissible building footprint size. Such proxy goals are easier to design around and can be evaluated readily.

By the end of the goal setting exercise, it should be apparent to the team whether it makes sense to pursue LEED Certification, and which product (New Construction, Existing Building, Commercial Interiors, etc.) to pursue. When the LEED credit goals are set based on the group's priorities, designing for those goals makes sense even if the actual certification is not being pursued. Remember that goals are just that, goals; something to strive toward, regardless of certification. Evaluate the design periodically against the goals. Utilize the talents and collective knowledge of the team to continually look for opportunities and synergies unique to the program and site to further the vision of the team while maintaining a balance of ecological, fiduciary and professional responsibility.

LEED® Factoid

The LEED Green Building Rating System for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) is a set of performance standards for the sustainable operation of existing buildings.

Friends of the Chapter offers benefits to agencies and companies alike: You can play an important role in the development of a sustainable environments program in Southern Nevada! Friends of the Chapter provides much needed funding that is used to offer high quality educational programs for our community.

These programs build awareness and foster implementation of more sustainable building practices in our desert environment based on the USGBC LEED® building rating system. There are several contributor levels—one is right for your firm or agency.

The USGBCLV is a 501 C (3) non-profit organization, so your contribution is tax deductible. We also offer benefits that include your logo & contact info on our website, newsletter, and at our many events scheduled for 2005.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to help us foster sustainable building practices in Southern Nevada through LEED® and other green resource tools. For more info on this program, visit our Chapter website, www.usgbclv.org, or contact Rich Warren at 702-287-3537 and rlwarren12@earthlink.net.

**ACTIVITY POCKET
SPECIAL EVENTS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Annual Local Membership Dues

Any individual may join the chapter. The following is a breakdown of the membership categories.

- 1. Chapter Member - \$50** Available only to individuals from USGBC-member companies.
- 2. Associate Chapter Member-\$65** For individuals whose companies are not USGBC members; non-voting, local membership.
- 3. Chapter Student - \$25** Must be enrolled in accredited degree program.



To join, visit the website for more information www.usgbclv.org.

Monthly Chapter Meetings

Monthly Chapter Meetings are held at 7:00 A.M. every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Southwest Gas 4300 W. Tropicana Ave. (@ Arville). The meetings deliver updates on our Chapter activities, a guest speaker on a green building topic, and light breakfast. The meetings provide a great opportunity to network, socialize, and learn about green building in Southern Nevada.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

May 10, 2005

Carrie Lee from the Southern Nevada Water Authority
Topic: Water Use and Efficiency in the Las Vegas Valley

June 14, 2005

Prasad Vaidya & David Eijadi from The Weidt Group, Berkeley, California
Topic: Daylight, Energy, and LEED®

July 2005 - No Monthly Meeting

** Members attend monthly meetings for free, while Non-members pay a nominal fee of \$15.

Other Related Events in the Works:

2005 Green Training Building Series - Education Seminars continuing in Las Vegas!

Wednesday, October 19th

Training Module 5: LEED® Project Case Studies

Wednesday, June 15th

Training Module 3: The Construction Manager's Responsibilities with LEED

Wednesday, December 14th

Training Module 6: Comparison & Contrast of the new LEED® Rating Systems

Wednesday, August 17th

Training Module 4: The Cost & Financial Benefits of Green Construction

For more information and to register: Megan Schimmelpfennig, *Southwest Contractor*
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Deepika Padam, LEED® AP
Programs Committee Chair

**BAGELS & COFFEE
MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS**

OUTSIDE LINX
RELATED EVENTS FROM OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS

**American Institute of Architects
Las Vegas Chapter**

Committee on the Environment
Wallace, Roberts & Todd LLC—Lecture
Wednesday, May 4th, 2005
UNLV School of Architecture
6:30 pm
FREE www.lv-cote.org / www.aialasvegas.org

AIA National Convention and Design Expo
“The Power of Architecture”
May 19-21, 2005
Mandalay Bay Convention Center

Hospitality Design Expo 2005
May 05-07, 2005
Expo Hours:
Thursday May 5 and Friday May 6
9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday May 7
9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Sands Expo & Convention Center

For more information visit: www.hdexpo.com

UN World Environment Day 2005
Mayors from around the world will meet in San Francisco to celebrate Green Cities and create a plan for Sustainable Urban future.
June 1-5, 2005 - San Francisco

For more information visit: www.wed2005.org

SPECIAL VARIANCES
EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

WRITE or EMAIL US!!!

Tell us what you want to see more of and what you think about the articles and information in this and future USGBCLV newsletters.

communications@usgbclv.org

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NOTE:

Contributions (comments or articles) for the Newsletter must be received no later than the 20th of the month prior to the next issue.

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Committees

Our Committees are working hard to bring you better programs and information on green building, design, and practices.

Contact the following folks for more information on committees or to get involved in them!

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