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LEED Homes UPDATE January 2004

The U.S. Green Building Council, through its LEED Homes Committee, is developing an all-new LEED rating and certification system for homes (LEED-H). Adopting goals similar to the LEED certifications for commercial buildings, LEED-H will be a nationally recognized rating system that will help bring more environmentally responsible, healthy, and efficient homes into the market. LEED-H will consist of a national green rating procedure suitable for implementation in those parts of the U.S. where one doesn't already exist. Where a local green building program does exist, the USGBC intends to collaborate with the local organization to enhance the adoption of green practices by home builders.

USGBC is currently screening proposals for a LEED Homes consultant to manage and progress the development, pilot, launch, and initial implementation of the LEED Homes program. The LEED Homes Core Committee (consisting of appointed and elected members that are responsible for the development process) has the development of a business plan for LEED-H well underway, detailing the tasks and timeline for the process ahead. The LEED Homes consultant will work closely with the Committee and USGBC using the business plan as a guide to develop a successful green homes program.

Interest in green homes has grown exponentially over the last ten years. Since 1990, over 20 green home rating systems have emerged. To ensure a cohesive and influential rating system, USGBC and LEED-H will be aiding the natural evolution toward homogeneity of green guidelines already occurring in the marketplace. By centralizing this effort and creating the opportunity for collaborative work, USGBC and LEED-H hope to accelerate the process of transforming the home building industry toward more sustainable practices.

USGBC members interested in LEED-H Core Committee activities can become involved in the process by joining the LEED-H "Corresponding Committee" e-mail listserv; sign up at <https://www.usgbc.org/youraccount/committees.asp>. Corresponding Committee members receive Core Committee meeting minutes, specific solicitations for input on items selected by the Core Committee, and announcements regarding LEED-H volunteer opportunities.

Interested parties that are not USGBC members can join a public announcement distribution list by request via homes@committees.usgbc.org.

LEED Homes Background

The evolution of the LEED Homes effort has brought progress and strength to the development process. Starting in 2000, USGBC formed a Steering Committee chaired by Marc Richmond (Austin Energy) which in turn formed four Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs): Sustainable Sites, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality.