



# Applying LEED to Hospitality and Venue projects

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## What are the advantages of using LEED for hospitality spaces?

Hotels and public assembly venues have significant opportunities to reduce environmental impacts associated with guest rooms, event spaces, and general facility operations through measures such as energy and water efficiency, waste reduction and management, sustainable and local purchasing, and alternative transportation. Hotels and conference centers can also promote human health by providing healthy, comfortable, and productive indoor environments with improved air quality, access to daylight and views, and occupant control over lighting and thermal conditions.

USGBC promotes cost-efficient, resource-saving green building design, construction, and operations to protect the global environment and human health. The LEED green building certification program provides the framework for designing and operating hotels sustainably. On average, green buildings use 26% less energy, emit 33% less carbon dioxide, use 30% less indoor water, and send 50% to 75% less solid waste to landfills and incinerators. For hospitality venues, integrating green building strategies into design, construction, and daily operations make business sense and can be an important part of a company's commitment to sustainability.

## How can Hospitality and Venue projects earn LEED certification?

Hospitality buildings & interior spaces can achieve certification under various LEED rating systems at different stages of their lifecycle.

*LEED Building Design and Construction (BD+C):* Buildings dedicated to hotels, motels, inns or other businesses within the service industry that provide transitional or short-term lodging, with or without food, can apply for LEED BD+C: Hospitality rating system. At least 60% of the project's gross floor area must be complete by the time of certification and the project must include the entire building's gross floor area.

*LEED Interior Design and Construction (ID+C):* Interior spaces dedicated to hotels, motels, inns or other businesses within the service industry that provide transitional or short-term lodging, with or without food, can apply for LEED ID+C: Hospitality rating system. At least 60% of the project's gross floor area must be completed by the time of certification

*LEED Operations and Maintenance (O+M):* Existing Buildings or Interiors applies to buildings or spaces that are fully operational and occupied for at least one year. The project may be undergoing improvement work or little to no construction and must also include the entire building's gross floor area in the project. Unless otherwise noted in the credit-specific requirements, this includes process-related operations and performance metrics.

Venues such as convention centers, stadiums, arenas, and other public assembly spaces should use the rating system that best fits their lifecycle stage (new construction or existing building) or scope of work (whole building or interior).

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## How many hospitality and public assembly projects are certified under LEED?

As of March 2026, 4,512 LEED-certified and registered lodging and hotel projects encompass 1.58 billion square feet (147 million square meters) of built space. LEED-certified and registered public assembly facilities, including convention centers, stadiums, and community civic spaces, comprise more than 6,146 projects totaling 964 million square feet (90 million square meters).

## What issues are unique to hospitality projects?

Because of on-site amenities, food & beverage, pool & laundry operations, convention facilities, frequent renovation cycles and transient guest populations; hospitality projects present unique environmental challenges and opportunities. To address these, USGBC convened hospitality industry leaders to identify LEED areas needing additional attention.

Through its committee structure, USGBC formed the Hospitality Adaptations Working Group, comprising experts from member companies. In collaboration with the LEED Steering Committee, USGBC staff, and the LEED Technical Advisory Groups, the group modified select LEED credits to better reflect the environmental impacts and opportunities of hospitality properties. The resulting LEED credits can be found in:

- Regular Occupied Spaces
- Indoor Water Use
- Waste Diversion
- Low Emitting Materials
- IAQ Assessment
- Thermal Comfort
- Interior Lighting

For more details, refer the LEED v4.1 BD+C and ID+C: Hospitality rating systems and their corresponding guides.

## How does LEED address the unique challenges of hospitality and venue projects?

LEED v5 is the current version of the rating system and is available to all commercial projects pursuing certification under New Construction, Core and Shell, Commercial Interiors, and Existing Buildings. Many strategies developed for hospitality and venue projects in earlier LEED versions have been incorporated into LEED v5 or, are included in the new Project Priorities and Innovation credit category. This category offers greater flexibility to address unique project contexts and priorities, including typology, culture, location, innovation, and performance objectives. Sector-specific Project Priority credits are being developed on an ongoing basis and will be published in the [Project Priority Library](#).

## What kind of hospitality projects can be certified through LEED?

Hospitality and venue spaces such as hotels, motels, resorts, convention centers, stadiums & arenas, and other public assembly facilities, have unique needs that warrant a tailored LEED approach. LEED hospitality strategies address new construction and major renovations, new and existing commercial interiors, and existing buildings, providing project teams with a comprehensive set of solutions.

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**Hospitality:** Buildings that provide transitional or short-term lodging such as hotels, motels, and inns— with or without food service.

**Convention Centers:** Large buildings or complexes designed to host conventions, trade shows, meetings, and special events; typically located in walkable urban areas, capable of accommodating thousands, and featuring large commercial kitchens and extensive freight and shipping operations.

**Sports Venues:** Facilities ranging from arenas and stadiums for collegiate and professional teams and international events (e.g., the Olympics, World Cup) to community and campus venues supporting competitive, recreational, and intramural activities.

**Performing Arts Centers:** Multiuse facilities with seating and staging, including theaters, concert halls, opera houses, and similar venues.

**Community Centers and Public Assembly Spaces:** Facilities that host a wide range of community services and activities, including group programs, educational offerings, and public services.

## How does the Arc platform relate to hotels and venues?

The LEED v4.1 O+M rating system provides a performance-based pathway to certify existing buildings and interior spaces using [Arc](#), a state-of-the-art platform that collects, manages, and benchmarks performance across five categories: energy, water, waste, transportation, and human experience.

For the hospitality sector, LEED O+M: Existing Buildings and LEED O+M: Existing Interiors enable hotels and venues to compare and benchmark against similar facilities worldwide. The [LEED v4.1 O+M Beta Guide](#) explains how to configure building settings for comparison with similar facilities and proper weighting under LEED v4.1 O+M requirements, and includes guidance on conducting visitor and guest surveys.

Within Arc, the portfolio feature lets owners and operators monitor performance in real time and make data-driven decisions to optimize outcomes. Arc can also help identify which projects should pursue LEED certification or recertification.

[LEED v5 BD+C](#), [ID+C](#) and [O+M](#) rating systems support certification for all space types through the new [Arc experience](#), providing a unified, flexible platform for performance, certification, and reporting.

## How does LEED address hospitality projects with multiple buildings on site?

Resorts and entertainment districts often include multiple buildings on a single site pursuing LEED. LEED guidance allows the project boundary to encompass additional buildings. If a building or structure within the boundary is ineligible for LEED certification, the project team may choose whether to include it in the certification scope.

If another building within the boundary is eligible, it may likewise be included or excluded. If included, the project must use the LEED campus certification process, which applies to shared sites under a single controlling entity and streamline documentation while capturing economies of scale. Learn more about the LEED Campus program [here](#).

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Notably, hotels, resorts, and resort properties, as defined by ENERGY STAR, may treat multiple, physically distinct structures as a single building for LEED purposes. For new construction, each structure in the application must have less than 25,000 square feet of gross floor area.

## What LEED resources are available for hospitality and venue project teams?

A variety of technical resources and educational courses are available to help teams apply LEED to their projects, including:

### *USGBC Market Sector Reports*

- [LEED In Motion: Hospitality](#)
- [LEED in Motion: Venues](#)

### *LEED for Hospitality Rating Systems and Reference Guides*

- [LEEDv4.1 BD+C: Hospitality](#) and [LEEDv4.1 BD+C guide](#)
- [LEEDv4.1 ID+C: Hospitality](#) and [LEEDv4.1 ID+C guide](#)
- [LEED v5 BD+C, ID+C and O+M Rating Systems](#) and [LEED v5 guides](#)

### *Education*

- [A Zero Waste Super Bowl and The First LEED v4.1 O+M Platinum Sports Stadium - Sustainability at U.S. Bank Stadium](#)
- [Asia Pacific Highlights – 2024 Global Investor Outlook](#) for industrial, retail and hospitality sectors
- [Case Study: TCF Center Detroit Convention Center](#)
- [Hotel Marcel and Sinclair Hotel: A Case Study on Hotel Energy Efficiency](#)
- [LEEDv4.1 Ask the Experts: LEED and Hospitality](#)

### *Articles and Briefs*

- [Green Hotels: Getting Back to Business](#)
- [Green travel roundup: LEED-certified places to see](#)
- [Hotels worldwide are going green with LEED](#)
- [LEED Link: Find a LEED Stadium Near You](#)
- [LEED in College Sports](#)
- [Sustainability continues to pay dividends in the hospitality industry](#)
- [Zero waste sports stadiums are already in play](#)

## Where can I find owner profiles and case studies on LEED for hospitality and venue projects?

Browse the [USGBC project directory](#) to view non-confidential LEED-registered and LEED-certified projects; use the search bar to enter keywords and filter by region and rating system for more precise results. Check out similar project profiles at:

### Hotels and Lodging

- [Hilton Arlington Rosslyn The Key, US](#)
- [Five Luxe Hotel L.L.C, Dubai, UAE](#)
- [Maxx Royal Bodrum Resort, Mugla, Turkey](#)
- [Moxy Athens City by Marriott, Greece](#)

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- [Radisson Blu Hotel, Bengaluru, India](#)
- [Renaissance Porto Lapa Hotel, Porto, Portugal](#)
- [Saranac Waterfront Lodge- Saranac Lake, NY](#)
- [Sheraton Colombo Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka](#)

## Convention and Expo Centers

- [AsiaWorld-Expo, China](#)
- [Charlotte Convention Center, NC](#)
- [EXPO 2020 DUBAI - Thematic Districts](#)
- [Los Angeles Convention Center](#)
- [New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention](#)
- [Pittsburgh's David L Lawrence Convention Center](#)
- [Vancouver Convention Centre West, Vancouver, Canada](#)

## Stadiums and Arenas

- [S.B. Ballard Stadium at ODU - Virginia](#)
- [Austin's Q2 Soccer Stadium – Texas](#)
- [Gillette Stadium – Massachusetts](#)
- [Target Field and US Bank Stadium - Minnesota](#)

## Who can I contact for more information on LEED for hospitality and venues?

For more information about LEED in the hospitality sector, [contact us](#).