# LEED for Homes 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment Period is now open.



It is important that all residential stakeholders comment on the proposed changes to the LEED for Homes rating system. This is your chance to shape the LEED rating system, which is traditionally voted on by a predominantly commercial group. AES needs you to give feedback and help USGBC balance the need for progress with the realities of implementation to keep this a relevant rating system. These changes are currently slated to take effect in the Fall of 2012. AES has highlighted specific issues that need your input below:

### What version of Energy Star should be used?

Energy Star Version 3 (ESV3) is currently proposed as a perquisite in the LEED 2012 rating system. AES is concerned that Energy Star Version 3 will cost projects roughly \$7,000 more to implement and will not be cost effective. AES recommends that LEED 2012 use the HERS score as an alternative compliance path for the performance path in EA prerequisites, and reward extra points to those pursing ESV3. Energy Star Version 2 will still be the standard until LEED 2012 goes into full effect, despite Energy Star changes on 1/1/12.

### What about LEED for existing homes?

The requirements for ESV3 effectively eliminate any existing home gut rehab projects from obtaining Energy Star certification. If LEED 2012 requires ESV3, then no existing homes will be eligible for LEED certification.

#### We Need Your Support

AES encourages all who have interest in residential Green Building to comment on these changes by praising valid changes but also giving constructive criticism to measures that are not feasible in the market. USGBC will take into account strong, defensible, constructive comments that are reinforced with suggestions on exactly how the LEED Rating System should develop.

Below are several links to websites with details on the proposed rating system. We encourage you to review a <u>summary</u> of or the complete <u>details</u> for LEED for Homes 2012 changes. Sign up for the <u>2012 LEED Webcast</u> to get more information and have your questions answered by USGBC staff. After learning about all the proposed changes, please <u>comment</u> on each credit that is of concern to you.

Public Comment will close on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2011.

# **LEED for Homes**

The following objectives were used in revising the Homes rating system for 2nd public comment:

Revise and/overhaul credits that are too easily achieved, or rarely attempted

Streamline the rating system process by reducing the number of documentation-focused credits and prerequisites to instead have them be verified on-site, with a focus on diagnostic testing

Align with other LEED rating systems, as appropriate

Focus on absolute metrics and total savings

### Changes include:

- LT: Fundamental Site Selection It has become a prerequisite, which requires that projects build above the FEMA floodplain and not on public parkland.
- EA: Performance of ENERGY STAR for Homes Allowances are now provided in required ENERGY STAR checklists for existing homes & certain HVAC tests can be traded off
- WE: Total Water Use New credit combines water calculators for indoor and outdoor water use to become total site water saved
- EA/MR: 3 new credits created for performance testing and in field verification, including efficient hot water piping, residential HVAC commissioning, and durability management verification

### LEED 2012 Homes Webcast

Register for the LEED 2012 2nd Public Comment Introduction Webcasts. Free for members!

## LEED 2012 Homes Rating System Drafts

Clean Version
Redline Revision Example Version

Summary of Changes

1st PC to 2nd PC
2008 to LEED 2012 2nd PC

LEED 2012 Scorecards
Homes
Homes Mid-Rise

# **Public Comment**

Submit comments on any of the LEED 2012 2nd
Public Comment Drafts

Homes Comparison 2008 - 2012

