



The University of Vermont

Policy V.5.9.3

Responsible Official: Vice President  
for University Relations and  
Administration

Effective Date: October 26, 2011

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# **Environmental Design in New and Renovated Buildings**

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## **Policy Statement**

This policy defines the University of Vermont's commitment to a high level of environmental sustainability in all new buildings and in major renovations to existing buildings. At minimum, the University will achieve a score of LEED™ "Silver," for the most appropriate LEED™ rating system; and will formally commission buildings, in accordance with LEED™ requirements.

## **Reason for the Policy**

This policy supports the University's emphases on environment and health in teaching, research, outreach, and campus operations, and the University's special role as the flagship institution of higher education in Vermont. The goal of this policy is to bring new and renovated University buildings to the forefront of environmentally sustainable design, construction, and operation, thereby supporting positive impacts on natural resources, enhancing occupant health and productivity.

## **Applicability of the Policy**

This policy applies to construction of all new buildings and major renovations.

## **Policy Elaboration**

This policy requires that environmental objectives, with accompanying metrics, be developed specific to each new building and major renovation. At a minimum, environmental objectives will include achieving a level of LEED™ "Silver" for the most appropriate LEED™ rating system; and formal building commissioning, in accordance with LEED™ requirements.

## Definitions

*Formal Building Commissioning*: refers to LEED™ for New Construction (NC) Energy Credit 3: Additional Commissioning intended to verify and ensure that the entire building is designed, constructed, and calibrated to operate as intended.

*LEED™*: Current versions of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Rating Systems developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED™ includes criteria related to Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Innovation and Design Process. Version 2.1 and Version 2.2 include 69 possible points, with prerequisites and four levels of certification: Certified 26-32 points; Silver 33-38 points; Gold 39-51 points; and Platinum 52-69 points.

*LEED NC 2009*: includes 100 possible base points; six possible in Design and four Regional Priority points. There are also prerequisites and four levels of certification: Certified 40-49 points; Silver 50-59 points; Gold 60-79 points; and Platinum 80 points and beyond.

For more information related to additional rating systems that maybe be used on campus, refer to the U.S. Green Building Council at <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=222>.

## Procedures

The University will develop environmental design objectives for each new building and major renovation. At a minimum these objectives will include the following:

1. Use of the most appropriate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) rating system

The University will design and build all new buildings and major renovations to a minimum standard of a “Silver” rating ” for the most appropriate U.S. Green Building Council in their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Rating System. UVM will strive to achieve a higher standard of LEED™ certification, that of “Gold” or higher, whenever possible. Laboratory design will be guided by a standard equivalent to LEED™ and Labs 21.

2. Formal Building Commissioning

Buildings will be fully and formally commissioned as described in the LEED™ section on Energy & Atmosphere as “additional” commissioning.

The Director of Capital Planning and Management is responsible for developing operating procedures necessary for the implementation of this policy within one year of the effective date of this policy.

## Forms

None

## **Contacts**

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to:

Director, Capital Planning & Management  
(802) 656-1304

The Vice President for University Relations and Administration is the official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

## **Related Documents/Policies**

Procurement or Lease of Goods and Services and Contract Approval and Signatory Authority for Procurement or Lease of Goods and Services

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/procure/procurement.pdf>

## **Effective Date**

V.4.5.1.1 Approved by the President on September 6, 2006

V.4.5.1.2 Approved by the President on January 2, 2008

V.4.5.1.3 Approved by the President on October 26, 2011