



LEEDsource.com Monthly

December 2009 - Premiere Issue

Premiere Newsletter Issue

As the green movement is growing, so is LEEDsource.com. This is the inaugural issue of our monthly newsletter. LEEDsource.com Monthly will include some of the latest news and events relevant to sustainability, the USGBC and LEED exams.



Every first Sunday of the month, a new newsletter will be posted on LEEDsource.com. In the event that the first Sunday falls on a Holiday weekend, it may be delayed a week.

Navigate to the 'Newsletter' page on LEEDsource.com where you will find the current newsletter as well as an archive of past newsletters. If you would like to be contacted via e-mail when the monthly newsletter has been issued, please e-mail newsletter@leedsource.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line and you will be added to the monthly e-mail list.

Article Submissions From You



The GBCI established continuing education requirements for LEED Accredited Professionals and LEED Green Associates. One way you can earn some of these credits is by submitting an article that is published in a newsletter or magazine. Here is your opportunity to earn a few credits.

LEEDsource.com Monthly is looking for your submissions. Submissions for articles are welcome. If your article is selected, you will be given full credit in the newsletter with a byline. Contact us at newsletter@leedsource.com with a copy of your submissions or for more information.

What should you be studying for the GA and O+M exams?

The USGBC introduced LEED v3 at Greenbuild 2008 in Boston. This was the biggest "revamp" of the rating systems since NC v2 was introduced. At the same time, the GBCI announced that the AP exams would also be revamped to align with these new rating systems.



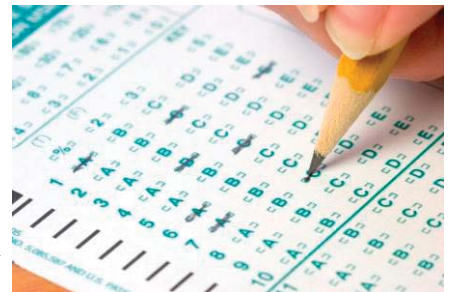
Early in 2009, the first of the two new exams were introduced: The LEED Accredited Professional Exam for Operations



and Maintenance (O+M) and the new LEED Green Associate (GA) exam. When these exams were in beta testing, they were based on the reference guides that were available at that time. This included the LEED for Existing Buildings, Operations and Maintenance (EBOM), LEED for Homes and several other documents like the Guidelines for CIR customers.

Now that we are reaching an end to 2009 and looking forward to 2010, most of the v3 reference guides are available. The CIR 'system' is mostly a memory, and the GA & O&M exams are still using information that was published before 2009. The Candidate Handbooks are referring test takers to documents that are not currently in use for new projects. The differences between the older information and the current is confusing to persons that are studying for an exam. The biggest example is the CIR guidelines that were changed for LEED v3, but exam candidates are still required to understand how the old system works.

When is the GBCI going to update this information? LEEDsource.com encourages all of the exam candidates to



e-mail the GBCI with this very question. The GBCI will have to reconfigure these exams to utilize the

newest information, and this will take time. It is not clear whether or not the GBCI is planning on doing this before the next rating system “upgrade” in 2011. It would be a disservice for candidates to continue to study outdated material, only to disregard it after they have passed the exam.

LEED for Expo Exhibitors

There is LEED for most building types: LEED for new construction, LEED for Homes, LEED for Commercial Interiors, LEED for Existing Buildings, and now LEED for Exhibitors?



At Greenbuild 2009, the exhibitors were encouraged to be as “green” as possible. Many produced less paper handouts while others minimized their displays to decrease the energy needed for transport. While this was all an encouragement on the part of the USGBC to the exhibitors, there has not been any sustainable requirement. A survey was distributed this year to establish what was actually accomplished with regards to being green. The USGBC is planning on using this information to establish a reasonable set of minimum sustainable performance requirements for expo participants at Greenbuild 2010

Looking past 2010, this could be turned into a ‘prerequisite and credit’ program similar to the LEED rating systems. Setting up points to that may be earned by the exhibitors would create a whole new level of competition. Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum exhibitors may become common place at future Greenbuild conventions.

Confusion could be created between sponsor and exhibitor statuses. Sponsors are able to “purchase” their status as a silver, gold or platinum sponsor. While this may fit the “theme” of the USGBC, the “color status” should be reserved for achieving levels of sustainability, rather than levels of money donated. The USGBC should be encouraged to find another manner to identify their most generous sponsors.

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