

Skidmore College  
Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy  
First Adopted March 5, 2021, Revised May 10, 2024

**Purpose**

Skidmore will continue to invest in buildings and other infrastructure to meet our community's needs and achieve our aspirations. However, we also acknowledge that campus growth may appear to be at odds with our commitment to sustainability. As we continue to develop campus and pursue projects that are critical to enhancing a high-quality college experience, we must do so in a way that mitigates the negative environmental, social, and economic impacts of constructing and operating new infrastructure.

The Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy informs decisions regarding the design, construction, and operation of our future built environment. The policy specifies both required and discretionary guidelines. This flexibility allows Skidmore to make strategic, data-driven decisions that balance sustainable infrastructure investments with budgetary limitations. The standards and guidelines outlined will guarantee that future campus development aligns with our institutional values, including health and well-

## I. Policy for new construction

All new construction shall be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards at a minimum, following the latest adopted [LEED rating system](#). New construction projects over \$5 million must be LEED-certified, while new construction projects under \$5 million are not required to pursue certification but must address all relevant LEED Building Design and Construction prerequisites and publicly report probable LEED points. In addition to following LEED standards, all new construction shall meet the guidelines and standards listed in section III, Policy for All Projects. Project teams should also investigate the feasibility of any applicable discretionary strategies outlined in section IV, Discretionary Strategies for All Construction and Renovation Projects.

## II. Policy for renovations over \$2million

All renovation projects over \$2 million shall be built to LEED Silver standards at a minimum but are not required to become LEED-certified. These projects will publicly report probable LEED points. These projects must address all relevant LEED Building Design and Construction prerequisites and shall meet the guidelines and standards listed in section III, Policy for All Projects. Project teams should also investigate the feasibility of applicable discretionary strategies outlined in section IV, Discretionary Strategies for All Construction and Renovation Projects.

## III. Policy for all projects

All projects, regardless of scale, or that utilize or replace any of the materials or components listed below, shall adhere to the following standards and criteria:

### A. Climate and Energy

1. Utilize only LED lighting in all campus applications.
2. Utilize occupancy sensors in all classrooms and offices.
3. Permanent or semi-permanent appliances shall be Energy STAR certified or retain similar energy certification.
4. Conduct a 75-year whole building life cycle cost analysis (LCCA) and life cycle assessment (LCA) for all new construction, including agreed upon project design alternatives, using approved software, on major mechanical, energy, electrical, envelope, and plumbing systems. Utilizing both LCCA (a tool to determine total cost of ownership) and LCA (a measurement of environmental impact) will ensure a building is designed to last 75 years or more.

greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Install building

#### IV. Discretionary strategies for all construction and

## Appendix A: LEED Checklist

The current Building Design and Construction version (v4.1 and other rating systems, such as Interior Design and Construction and Operations and Maintenance) can be found at [usgbc.org/leed](http://usgbc.org/leed). The U.S. Green Building Council is scheduled to launch LEED v5 in 2025.

LEED v4.1 Building Design and Construction (current as of 04.26.2021).

The screenshot displays the LEED v4.1 BD+C Project Checklist software. At the top, it shows the USGBC logo and the title 'LEED v4.1 BD+C Project Checklist'. Below the title, there are fields for 'Name:', 'Project:', and 'Date:'. A legend indicates 'Y' (Yes) in green, '?' (Unknown) in orange, and 'N' (No) in red. The main area is a grid of credit categories and individual credit items. The 'Sustainable Sites' category is expanded, showing the following credits:

Category	Prereq	Credit	Y	?	N
Required	0	0	0		
2	Y	Prereq			
3		Credit			
1		Credit			
2		Credit			
1		Credit			
2		Credit			
3		Credit			
1		Credit			
1		Credit			

Other categories visible in the screenshot include 'Materials and Resources', 'Location and Transportation', 'Indoor Environmental Quality', and 'Water Efficiency'. The 'Indoor Environmental Quality' category shows credits for 'Minimum Indoor Air Quality Performance', 'Environmental Tobacco Smoke Control', 'Enhanced Indoor Air Quality Strategies', 'Low-Emitting Materials', 'Construction Indoor Air Quality Management', 'Indoor Air Quality Assessment', 'Thermal Comfort', 'Interior Lighting', 'Daylight', 'Quality Views', and 'Acoustic Performance'. The 'Water Efficiency' category shows credits for 'Indoor Water Use Reduction' and 'Outdoor Water Use Reduction'.

## Appendix B: Definitions and Standards

The following standards are current to LEED v4.1 and/or as designated by Skidmore. Standards should be reviewed and updated in alignment with LEED rating system version updates.

### Heating Efficiency Standards:

- x Campus buildings shall achieve an average annual heating efficiency rate that aligns with LEED guidelines and contributes to our progress toward Energy Goal Four: 60% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per student and square foot of the 2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan, or any updated version.

### Electrical Efficiency Standards

- x Campus buildings shall achieve an average annual electrical efficiency rate that aligns with LEED guidelines and contributes to our progress toward Energy Goal Five: maintain electricity use per student and square foot of the 2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan, or any updated version.

Electrical efficiency should account for both process energy (computers, office equipment, washers/dryers, elevators, kitchen appliances, etc.) and non-process or regulated energy (HVAC, lighting, hot water heating, etc.).

### Water Use Efficiency Standards:

- x Toilet: 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) and dual-flush when possible.
- x Urinal: 0.8 gpf
- x Public lavatory faucet: 0.4 gallons per minute (gpm)
- x Private lavatory faucet: 1.75 gpm
- x Kitchen faucet: 1.75 gpm
- x Showerhead: 2 gpm
- x Residential clothes washer: Energy STAR or performance equivalent
- x Commercial clothes washer: Energy STAR or performance equivalent
- x Residential dishwasher: Energy STAR or performance equivalent
- x Pre-Rinse Spray Wand: 1.3 gpm
- x Ic-4 (en)-4 Energy STAR (or performance equivalent) machine: 0.38 gpm

