

Courses and resources – offered by professional organizations, green building organizations, educational institutions

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

COURSE: Materials World: Navigating LEED v4 Materials Credits (2016)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: AEC Daily

SUMMARY: This course provides a brief introduction to all of the materials BPDO credits. It also introduces all of the certification, label, and reporting programs for the credits.

USGBC course description: Basic - This course takes a close look at the Building Disclosure and Optimization credits, the changes in thinking from LEED 2009 to LEED v4, and strategies and tools used to determine material health.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: Better Building Materials (2017) LEED v4

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: GreenCE

SUMMARY: This course provides an introduction to all LEED v4 Materials and Resources credits. It presents a basic introduction to why the topic matters, the credit intents and requirements (general), and documentation that can be used to comply. It does not answer all the “how-to” questions for each credit, but provides a useful introduction to all.

USGBC course description: Basic: This one hour course will empower project teams and design professionals to take leading roles in using materials selection to promote human health and protect the environment.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: Better Building Materials Part 2 (2018) LEED v4

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: GreenCE

SUMMARY: This course addresses all three BPDO credits. Approximately half is devoted to health and material ingredients. It isn't intended as a “how to” for LEED credits, but instead is an excellent introduction to life cycle environmental impacts and health impacts of materials in buildings, including EPDs and HPDs.

USGBC course description: Basic. Our team will discuss how building material substances and ingredients can affect human health.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: The Empowered Design Professional: Using HPDs to Make Healthier Materials Choices (2017) LEED v4

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: GreenCE (partnership with Health Product Declaration Collaborative)

SUMMARY: This course was sponsored by the Health Product Declaration Collaborative and provides detailed information on LEED v4 credit requirements, how HPDs can be used to meet the requirements, where to find them. It also includes clear information on why this is important, hazards, terminology, and other information for those who want to know more than how to achieve the credit.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: <https://www.greence.com/>, and [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: LEED v4 Rating System Review (BD&C, ID&C) (2013)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: USGBC Staff

SUMMARY: This course provides separate modules for each credit category and each credit. The section on the Material Ingredients credit is approximately 7 minutes of a much larger course; navigation enables a user to watch only this section.

USGBC course description: Explore the LEED Materials & Resources credits, which address the building material, life-cycle and encourage existing building reuse and preservation, as well as sustainable extraction, processing, transport, maintenance and disposal of building materials.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED COURSES

COURSE: Material Transparency & LEED (2018) LEED v4

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: Building Green

SUMMARY: This course contains excellent introductions to the “I want to know more” topics and other more intermediate and advanced topics. It also introduces documents that can be used for documentation and shows graphics on what to look for (“how do I achieve the credit”). It does not include up-to-date references to tools for finding and obtaining documentation. Addresses v4 only.

USGBC course description: Intermediate. This deep dive into the nitty gritty of the three Building Product Disclosure and Optimization credits in LEED version 4 BD+C and ID+C provides the rationale for why product choices are so important, and the details on how to achieve points within the three credits.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: Deep Material Vetting (2015)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: BuildingGreen

SUMMARY: This course has in depth discussion of potential life cycle impacts of ingredients – more advanced topics. It also includes useful information on process of identifying materials, specs, etc. There is no information on LEED requirements.

USGBC course description: Intermediate. Learn how to vet materials like an LBC Red List veteran! Hint: you don't have to be a chemist to learn how to ask the right questions and get the right answers. (Recorded February 19, 2015.)

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: LEED and WELL Product Labels: A Guide and Analysis (2019)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: BuildingGreen

SUMMARY: This is a report produced by BuildingGreen – it is detailed, comprehensive, and up-to-date, and includes references to additional information for each label program. It describes each label that can be used to comply with the Material Ingredients and other materials credits in LEED (plus those that comply with WELL). It includes information provided, how to determine if the label is in compliance, and where to find these documents.

USGBC course description: Intermediate: A seal of approval is a useful guide. It lets you know at a glance that a product meets a trusted source's standards for performance. But in a sea of logos, any particular program becomes harder to discern and understand.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COURSE: The Case for Material Transparency: A LEED v4 Credit Analysis (2016)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: Green Building Services/ RWDI USA LLC

SUMMARY: This is a broad course that covers transparency, EPDs/ LCA, and ingredients (HPDs). It discusses importance, requirements, and implementation tips. This course provides more than is needed for Material Ingredients, but has excellent content, exercises, and case studies in addition to facts.

USGBC course description: Intermediate: This course explores LEED v4 Materials and Resources credit changes, addressing leading frameworks in material transparency and the benefits and challenges associated with product disclosure.

Environmental and Health Product Declarations (EPDs and HPDs) are defined and assessed, while building case studies provide real-world context.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [USGBC Education Platform](#)

COMPREHENSIVE COURSES ON TRANSPARENCY AND MATERIAL HEALTH

COURSE: Healthier Materials and Sustainable Buildings online course

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: Parsons, The New School

SUMMARY: This program consists of four courses, described below from the Parsons website.

Course description: The four courses cover information required for the design of more healthful interiors. Learning benefits and outcomes include the ability to identify and compare products and materials used in the built environment; explain the importance of designing with non-toxic materials; evaluate products and materials, identifying hazards and comparing suitable options; set criteria; analyze product information; and specify materials according to established criteria.

1) Materials and Human Health: This course explores the impact that building materials can have on human health, demonstrating systemic intricacies that will challenge students to keep asking questions while offering suggestions for addressing these issues in their work. 2) Building Products and Chemistry: This course introduces students to the fundamentals of chemistry, enabling them to understand why particular outcomes and health impacts are produced. It introduces students to chemicals of concern and more healthful alternatives that are being formulated by green chemists. It asks how project health goals can be outlined and informed decisions made on the basis of these findings. 3) Healthier Materials Design and Specifications: This course helps designers navigate industry resources and certifications, find and evaluate product options, and apply resources for maximum impact. We look at methods for targeting specific issues in a project and generalized strategies that can apply more broadly, highlighting potential benefits and consequences of employing different approaches. 4) Executing a Healthier Project: This course deals with the full process of creating healthier buildings, covering challenges encountered throughout design, construction, maintenance, and operation. The course is framed as a collection of lessons learned through experience that help professionals become better informed, enabling them make decisions with an overall awareness of the protocols for healthier design.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: Offered locally, fee applies, <https://www.newschool.edu/parsons/healthier-materials-sustainable-buildings-certificate-programs/>.

COURSE: Materials Matter – online courses (2018)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: American Institute of Architects

SUMMARY: This course consists of five modules: (1) Materials Matter: the Big Idea; (2) Environmental Impacts: Making a Difference; (3) Health Impacts: Connecting Building Materials, Human Health and the Environment; (4) Life-Cycle Assessment: Tools to Reduce the Environmental Impact of Buildings; (5) Materials and Health: Understanding the Tools. Three of the five (1, 3, and 5) focus primarily or entirely on health; the other two focus on environmental impacts and EPDs. Each session is approximately 50 minutes and includes 4-5 presenters. The modules emphasize the role of the architect, how the architect can engage, and a clear understanding of issues.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: Available through AIA, fee applies, <https://aia.aia.org/>

RESOURCE: Materials Matter – in-person, workshop series (2016)

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: American Institute of Architects

SUMMARY: This course was sponsored by the American Institutes of Architects and developed by AIA Seattle, with the University of Washington and the Health Product Declaration Collaborative. It was designed as a workshop series to be offered by local AIA organizations. Content can vary by location.

AIA course description: Materials Matter is a five-session series delivering comprehensive, high-level knowledge and strategies for assessing and selecting healthy, sustainable materials. Sessions will delve into the impact of materials on the environment and human health, the tools and data available for assessing and prioritizing materials, and strategies for integrating informed decision-making into projects and practice. Speakers will reveal the perspectives of project team members and other partners connected with materials and share the learnings and approaches of successful projects. This series offers guidance on navigating the complex landscape of disclosures and transparency in order to assess and reduce the environmental and health impacts of products. Sessions will include presentations, panels, case studies, and activities. Participants will walk away from each session with action items for integrating the curriculum into their work. Sessions

are [Healthy Planet: Materials + the Environment](#), *Healthy People: Materials Science + Human Health*, [Tools of the Trade: Assessment + Implementation](#), [Just Do It: Strategies for Projects](#), [Beyond Transparency: Materials Disclosure + Practice](#).

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: Offered locally, fee applies, <https://aiau.aia.org/>.

OTHER RESOURCES

RESOURCE: LEED Reference Guide

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: USGBC

SUMMARY: The Reference Guide and supplemental resources provides detailed information on credit requirements, submittal requirements, and calculation methods where needed.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: [LEED Reference Guide](#)

RESOURCE: LEEDuser Forum

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: USGBC and BuildingGreen

SUMMARY: The LEEDuser forum provides answers to questions for each credit in LEED; information is provided by designated experts and experienced LEED users. It also provides tools and other resources to help project teams navigate and achieve each credit. There are tools and resources that provide guidance on credits and answers to specific questions about credit requirements, submittals, documentation, and other topics. Any of the items below could be submitted and answered, if the answers do not exist in the current forum.

Online description: Whether you're new to LEED or a seasoned professional, LEEDuser can save you time and money by providing frank guidance and advice on how to accomplish each credit requirement. It provides expert viewpoint, credit checklists and FAQs, USGBC credit language, documentation toolkits, and more. .

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: Link to Forum in each LEED credit, BuildingGreen website <https://leeduser.buildinggreen.com/>
There are varying levels of premium access, for individuals and organizations.

RESOURCE: Continuing Education, BuildingGreen

SPONSOR/ OFFERED BY: BuildingGreen

SUMMARY: This section of the BuildingGreen website offers a searchable collection of articles, papers, and other resources prepared by BuildingGreen. Relevant examples include "What's an HPD? HPD FAQs," "New Ways to Meet LEED v4 Ingredient Disclosure," "LEED and WELL Product Labels: A Guide and Analysis," and many more.

Website description: Find BuildingGreen articles, webcasts, and reports approved for continuing educations credits through AIA, GBCI, and ILFI. We will record and automatically report CEU credits for members.

AVAILABILITY/ ACCESS: <https://www.buildinggreen.com/continuing-education>

RESOURCE: How to and other informational resources

SPONSOR/OFFERED BY: HPD Collaborative

SUMMARY: The "Resources" tab of the HPDC website offers a collection of resources that may be useful to those pursuing the LEED credit, and also provides more in-depth resources and training regarding the creation and use of Health Product Declaration reports.

AVAILABILITY/ACCESS: [HPDC Website](#)

RESOURCE: HPDC Support Portal

SPONSOR/OFFERED BY: HPD Collaborative

SUMMARY: This free support portal provides a Knowledge Base of many searchable FAQs related to the use of HPD reports. Users may also create a "ticket" that will be sent to HPDC's support team, with any question about the use of HPDs, and the LEED Material Ingredients BPDO credit.

AVAILABILITY/ACCESS: [HPDC Support Portal](#)