



## Canada Green Building Council selects contractor to coordinate LEED 2009 rating system

Four years since releasing the first version of the LEED Canada for New Construction (NC) rating system, the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) is preparing to release the next version of this well known green building rating system. Enermodal Engineering, Canada's largest consulting firm focused entirely on green buildings, was chosen as the contractor to coordinate this revision with input from across the green building industry and the public.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most recognized and prestigious green building rating system in North America.

LEED Canada is administered by the CaGBC, which uses the rating system to designate buildings—Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum—according to the green features they incorporate.

Although the new version of LEED, referred to as 2009, will be similar to the original, there are several substantial changes likely to be included in the new document:

- Different point totals required for different levels of LEED (from Certified through Platinum)
- New prerequisites
- Points awarded for each credit have been weighted based on environmental importance (Currently most credits are only worth one point.)
- The various LEED Canada application guides are being amalgamated into one document for ease of use

"We're excited to use our experience on numerous LEED buildings to make this rating system more user-friendly and technically superior. This is a very important step forward for green design and the CaGBC," says Stephen Carpenter, Enermodal's president.

The new version of LEED is expected by early 2009, at which point Enermodal will have prepared the new version of the LEED reference manual and LEED submission documents. Canada and the United States are simultaneously developing the next generation of the LEED rating system. After four years of use, the green building industry has seen ways to improve LEED, so the revised version will benefit from improvements identified by the CaGBC's Technical Advisory Group (a committee of LEED experts from across Canada) and the CaGBC's Task Force of industry stakeholder representatives. After being harmonized with the American version, the resulting document will be reviewed and approved by the LEED Design and Construction Task Force and LEED Development Committee. Public input is being solicited through Virtual Community forums on the CaGBC website.

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*Enermodal Engineering is a consulting firm committed to buildings and communities that are energy and resource efficient. With professional staff in Kitchener, Calgary, Denver and Phoenix, Enermodal is working on over 170 LEED buildings across North America and is responsible for over 85% of the LEED certified projects in Ontario.*

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