

## Release of LEED 2009 Highlights New Requirements

Enermodal Engineering, Canada's largest consulting firm exclusively devoted to green buildings, served as the technical coordinator on the release of the much anticipated LEED Canada 2009 rating system from the Canada Green Building Council. This is the first revision to the LEED Canada rating system since the premier North American green building standard debuted in this country in 2004. The new version was released by the CaGBC on March 31, 2010 and will become mandatory in June 2010.

"While the basic organization and focuses of the LEED Canada rating system have not changed substantially, our experience with LEED over the past five years has resulted in certain benchmark changes to ensure all credits are achievable, but still pushing the industry forward towards greener buildings," says Stephen Carpenter, president of Enermodal Engineering and chair of the CaGBC's Technical Advisory Group.

Significant changes include the following:

- different point totals required for different levels of LEED (from Certified through Platinum)
- new prerequisite for minimum water efficiency
- points awarded for each credit weighted according to environmental importance (currently most credits are only worth one point)
- various LEED Canada application guides amalgamated into one document
- regional priority credits aimed at environmental issues of local importance
- higher performance thresholds for energy efficiency, water efficiency, and recycled and regional content

LEED is the most recognized and prestigious green building rating system in North America. LEED Canada is administered by the Canada Green Building Council, which uses the rating system to designate buildings—Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum – according to the green features they incorporate.

**For more information or to arrange an interview,  
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*Enermodal Engineering is Canada's largest consulting firm exclusively dedicated to creating energy and resource efficient buildings and communities. With offices in Kitchener, Calgary, Edmonton, and Toronto, Enermodal is working on over 250 LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings across North America and is responsible for 40% of LEED Canada certified buildings.*

