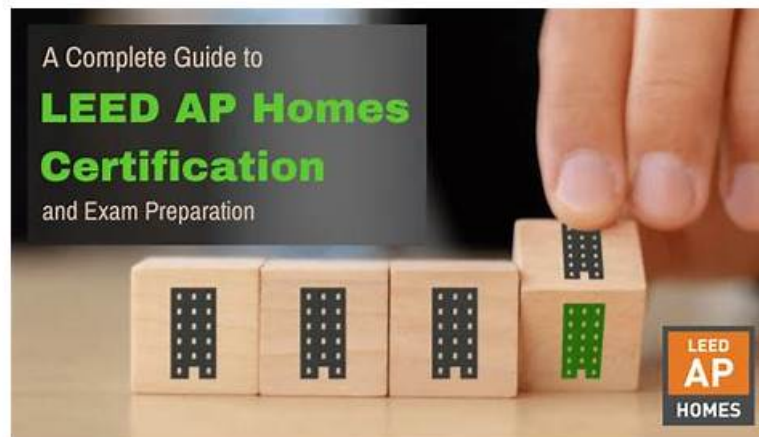


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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Priority Credits: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Regional Performance Advisor. It covers specific environmental credits that reflect local priorities, enabling tailored certification strategies that align with regional ecosystems or regulatory contexts.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Indoor Environmental Quality: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Architectural Designer. It addresses indoor air health, natural light, and ventilation requirements to ensure occupant comfort and durability, reflecting a home's capacity to provide a healthy and lasting living environment.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Innovation: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Design Innovation Lead. It invites professionals to explore creative and exemplary strategies that surpass standard credits—such as pilot projects or pioneering sustainability solutions—demonstrating forward-thinking in residential design.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Energy and Atmosphere: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Engineer. It includes evaluating the principles of energy efficiency, performance optimization, and emissions reduction in residential design, all critical to minimizing environmental impact while meeting occupant needs.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Materials & Resources: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Sustainability Specialist. It emphasizes the selection and management of eco-friendly materials, efficient usage of resources, and implementation of waste reduction strategies to support green residential construction.

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USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q23-Q28):

NEW QUESTION # 23

Energy losses due to supply duct leakage are most likely to occur when:

- A. Duct layout includes multiple 90-degree bends on a single branch.
- B. Ducts are located within conditioned envelope but joints are unsealed.
- C. Interior wall cavities are used to conduct return air.
- **D. Ducts are located in unconditioned attics, basements, or exterior walls.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Duct leakage in HVAC systems can significantly increase energy losses, particularly when ducts are poorly sealed or located in areas that exacerbate the impact of leakage. This issue is addressed in the LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) under the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category, specifically in credits related to Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4), the location of ducts plays a critical role in energy losses due to leakage:

EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems

To minimize energy losses, locate all heating and cooling ducts and air handlers within the conditioned envelope of the building. Ducts located in unconditioned spaces, such as attics, basements, or exterior walls, are more likely to lose energy due to leakage, as air escaping from ducts in these areas is lost to the outside or unconditioned zones, increasing heating and cooling loads.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit:

Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system further clarifies this:

EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance

Ducts located in unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics, unconditioned basements, or exterior walls) contribute to significant energy losses when leakage occurs, as conditioned air escapes to areas outside the thermal envelope. Sealing ducts and locating them within conditioned spaces are best practices to minimize losses.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Ducts in unconditioned attics, basements, or exterior walls are particularly problematic because any leakage results in conditioned air being lost to spaces that are not temperature-controlled, requiring the HVAC system to work harder to maintain indoor comfort.

This scenario maximizes energy losses compared to ducts within the conditioned envelope.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 127, which discusses return air strategies but not as a primary leakage concern.

B). Duct layout includes multiple 90-degree bends on a single branch: Multiple 90-degree bends increase airflow resistance, reducing system efficiency, but they do not directly cause duct leakage. Leakage is related to unsealed joints or poor duct construction, not the geometry of the duct layout. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126, which prioritizes duct sealing over layout.

C). Ducts are located within conditioned envelope but joints are unsealed: While unsealed joints cause leakage, ducts within the conditioned envelope leak into spaces that are already temperature-controlled. This reduces the energy impact compared to leakage in unconditioned spaces, as the conditioned air remains within the thermal envelope. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit:

Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126, which notes that ducts in conditioned spaces minimize energy loss from leakage.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook confirms that the exam tests knowledge of EA credits, including duct system design and energy performance, referencing the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a primary resource. The handbook ensures that the exam is based on LEED v4, aligning with the focus on duct location and sealing.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126-127.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).
LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming duct location impacts.

NEW QUESTION # 24

Which of the following is used to properly size space heating and cooling systems in accordance with LEED for Homes criteria?

- A. SMACNA Publication 69.2
- **B. ACCA Manual J**
- C. DOE 2006 HVAC Sizing Guide
- D. ASHRAE 62.2

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) requires proper sizing of space heating and cooling systems to ensure energy efficiency, addressed in the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance and related credits.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance

Size heating and cooling systems in accordance with ACCA Manual J (Residential Load Calculation). This ensures that HVAC systems are appropriately sized for the home's thermal loads, improving energy efficiency and occupant comfort.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

EA Prerequisite: Energy Performance

Use ACCA Manual J to calculate heating and cooling loads and properly size HVAC equipment to meet LEED requirements.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The ACCA Manual J (Option B) is the standard method for sizing residential heating and cooling systems, ensuring they match the home's thermal requirements.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Prerequisite: Ventilation, p. 142.

C). SMACNA Publication 69.2: SMACNA standards focus on sheet metal and ductwork installation, not system sizing. Reference: No mention in LEED v4 for Homes; irrelevant to HVAC sizing.

D). DOE 2006 HVAC Sizing Guide: While the DOE provides energy guidelines, LEED specifically requires ACCA Manual J for sizing. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA prerequisites, including HVAC sizing, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of ACCA Manual J.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming ACCA Manual J requirement.

NEW QUESTION # 25

How is credit earned under Regional Priority Credit, Regional Priority when the credit has multiple thresholds?

- A. Points are awarded at particular levels of achievement
- B. Points are awarded at the maximum threshold
- C. Points are awarded at the minimum threshold
- **D. Points are awarded when the maximum threshold has been exceeded**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes Regional Priority (RP) Credits, which provide bonus points for achieving existing credits identified as environmentally significant for a project's region. For credits with multiple thresholds, exemplary performance can earn additional points.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

Regional Priority Credits (1-4 points)

Regional Priority Credits are awarded for achieving designated credits that address location-specific environmental priorities. For credits with multiple thresholds (e.g., Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use), an additional bonus point is awarded when the maximum threshold has been exceeded, demonstrating exemplary performance.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190; Innovation Credit: Innovation, p. 190.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

Regional Priority Credits

When an RP credit has multiple thresholds, a project earns the bonus point by meeting the base credit requirements, and an additional point may be earned for exemplary performance by exceeding the maximum threshold of the underlying credit.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is points are awarded when the maximum threshold has been exceeded (Option C), as RP credits with multiple thresholds award bonus points for exemplary performance beyond the highest threshold.

Why not the other options?

* A. Points are awarded at the minimum threshold: RP credits require achieving the base credit, not just the minimum threshold.

* B. Points are awarded at the maximum threshold: Points are awarded for exceeding the maximum threshold, not just meeting it.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes RP credits and exemplary performance, referencing the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of exceeding thresholds.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190; Innovation Credit: Innovation, p. 190.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming exemplary performance criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 26

Which of the following educational tools in a multi-family apartment building must be used to satisfy Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite, Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager?

- A. A weekly meeting with tenants to raise any issues with building performance
- **B. A one-hour walk-through with the building manager explaining function, operation, and maintenance of equipment**
- C. Signs on easels in the leasing center describing the sustainable features in each apartment
- D. Placards immediately adjacent to common area equipment promoting energy and water efficiency of the project

Answer: B

Explanation:

The question references an "Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite" for education, which appears to be a misnomer, as the LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes this requirement under the Innovation (IN) Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager. This prerequisite ensures occupants or managers are educated on sustainable features.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager For multi-family buildings, provide a minimum one-hour walk-through with the building manager (or tenants) to explain the function, operation, and maintenance of equipment and systems, such as HVAC, water heating, and other sustainable features.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Innovation Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner or Tenant

In multi-family projects, a one-hour walk-through with the building manager is required to educate on the operation and maintenance of green systems, ensuring effective use of sustainable features.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is a one-hour walk-through with the building manager explaining function, operation, and maintenance of equipment (Option B), as this meets the prerequisite's requirement for multi-family buildings.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

C). A weekly meeting with tenants to raise any issues with building performance: Weekly meetings are not required; the prerequisite specifies a one-time walk-through. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

D). Placards immediately adjacent to common area equipment promoting energy and water efficiency:

Placards are educational but do not satisfy the walk-through requirement. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes IN prerequisites, including education requirements, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the walk-through.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Innovation Prerequisite:

Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming education requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 27

To comply with Materials and Resources Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, all wood in the building must be:

- A. From within 200 miles of the building site
- B. Only from the tropical region
- C. Tropical wood that is more than 10 years old
- **D. Non-tropical, reused, reclaimed, or certified**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Materials and Resources (MR) Prerequisite:

Certified Tropical Wood, which ensures that wood used in LEED projects is sourced sustainably to protect tropical ecosystems.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood

All new wood in the project must be nontropical, reused, reclaimed, or certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Tropical wood, if used, must be FSC-certified. This prerequisite ensures that wood sourcing does not contribute to deforestation in ecologically sensitive regions.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Rating system confirms:

MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood

All wood must be nontropical, reused, reclaimed, or FSC-certified. Tropical wood is only permitted if it is FSC-certified.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

To comply, all wood must be non-tropical, reused, reclaimed, or certified (Option A), ensuring sustainable sourcing across all wood types used in the project.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

C). Only from the tropical region: This contradicts the prerequisite, as tropical wood must be FSC-certified, and non-tropical wood is preferred. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood,

p. 156.

D). From within 200 miles of the building site: Local sourcing is relevant for MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, Option 1, not this prerequisite. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes MR prerequisites, including Certified Tropical Wood, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource.

The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the compliance criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Materials and Resources Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

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LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming wood sourcing requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 28

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