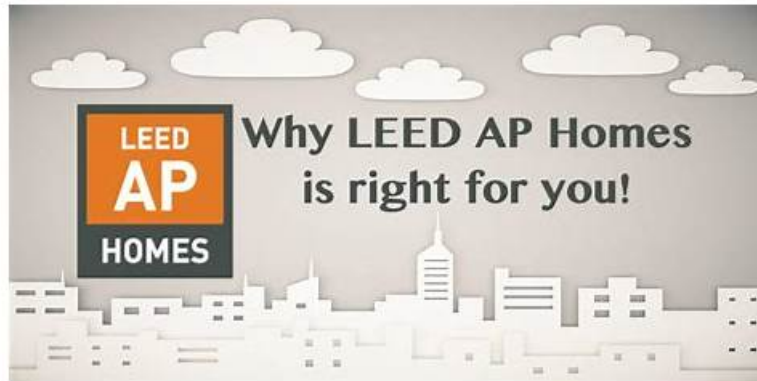


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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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 3	<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 4	<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.

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USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q51-Q56):

NEW QUESTION # 51

A LEED for Homes project is located in an area heavily infested with termites. A project could earn Sustainable Sites Credit, Nontoxic Pest Control for employing which of the following design strategies?

- A. Installing wood framing that is treated 3 ft. (0.9 m) above the foundation
- B. Installing FSC-certified ipe wood for all decking and stairs
- **C. Installing a code-approved termite barrier**
- D. Installing landscaping at least 12 in. (0.3 m) away from all parts of the home

Answer: C

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, which awards points for physical or nontoxic strategies to prevent pest entry, particularly in areas with high pest activity like termites, without relying on chemical treatments.

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

SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control (1 point)

Employ physical barriers to prevent pest entry, such as installing code-approved termite barriers (e.g., physical shields or mesh) around foundations to protect against termite infestation in a nontoxic manner.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

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

SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control

Installing a code-approved termite barrier is a recognized strategy to earn points by preventing termite access without chemical treatments, suitable for areas with heavy infestation.

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

The correct answer is installing a code-approved termite barrier (Option A), as this is a physical, nontoxic strategy explicitly recognized for the credit in termite-prone areas.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

C). Installing wood framing that is treated 3 ft. (0.9 m) above the foundation: Chemical treatment (e.g., with borates) is not considered nontoxic under this credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

D). Installing landscaping at least 12 in. (0.3 m) away from all parts of the home: While this may reduce pest access, it is not a primary strategy listed for this credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS credits, including nontoxic pest control, 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 termite barriers.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Sustainable Sites Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

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 pest control strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 52

For a one-bedroom unit in a multi-family building, the minimum bathroom airflow requirement for intermittent local exhaust is:

- A. 1 cfm per ft² (5.08 lps per m²)
- B. 25 cfm (11 lps)
- **C. 50 cfm (23 lps)**
- D. 2 cfm per ft² (10.16 lps per m²)

Answer: C

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses bathroom ventilation requirements in the Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Prerequisite: Ventilation, which references ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 for minimum airflow rates in residential buildings, including multi-family units.

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

EQ Prerequisite: Ventilation

For intermittent local exhaust in bathrooms, ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 requires a minimum airflow rate of 50 cfm (23 lps) for each bathroom to effectively remove moisture and pollutants. This applies to all dwelling units, including one-bedroom units in multi-family buildings.

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

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

EQ Prerequisite: Ventilation

Intermittent local exhaust in bathrooms must provide at least 50 cfm (23 lps) per ASHRAE 62.2-2010 to ensure adequate ventilation in multi-family units.

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

The correct answer is 50 cfm (23 lps) (Option B), as this is the minimum airflow requirement for intermittent bathroom exhaust in a one-bedroom unit per ASHRAE 62.2-2010.

Why not the other options?

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

C). 1 cfm per ft² (5.08 lps per m²): Bathroom exhaust is not based on floor area but on a fixed rate (50 cfm for intermittent systems). Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Prerequisite: Ventilation, p. 142.

D). 2 cfm per ft² (10.16 lps per m²): This is also not based on floor area and is incorrect for bathroom exhaust requirements. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Prerequisite: Ventilation, p. 142.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EQ prerequisites, including ventilation 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 ASHRAE 62.2-2010.

References:

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

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 bathroom exhaust requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 53

The owner requires a fireplace in a new house and is pursuing LEED for Homes certification. Which of the following strategies is acceptable?

- A. Install carbon monoxide monitors in each room
- **B. Install doors on the fireplace**
- C. Use unvented combustion appliances
- D. Use an unvented decorative log fireplace

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses fireplaces in the Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, which promotes safe combustion practices to prevent indoor air quality issues from fireplaces.

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

EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting (1 point)

For fireplaces, install doors and ensure they are direct-vented or power-vented to prevent combustion byproducts from entering the home. Unvented fireplaces or appliances are not permitted due to indoor air quality risks.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

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

EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting

Fireplaces must have doors and be vented to the outdoors (e.g., direct-vent) to qualify for the credit, ensuring safe operation and minimal indoor air pollution.

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

The correct answer is install doors on the fireplace (Option A), as this, combined with proper venting (assumed in LEED-compliant fireplaces), ensures safe operation and compliance with the credit.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

C). Use an unvented decorative log fireplace: Unvented fireplaces are not allowed, as they pose significant indoor air quality risks.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

D). Install carbon monoxide monitors in each room: While monitors are recommended for safety, they do not address the credit's requirement for vented fireplaces with doors. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EQ credits, including combustion venting, 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 fireplace doors.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

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 fireplace venting requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 54

After the HVAC contractor has completed the rough-in installation of all air handling equipment, what step should be taken to achieve Indoor Environmental Quality Credit, Contaminant Control during construction?

- A. Open all the windows in the house
- B. Flush the building for 48 hours
- C. Install temporary fans throughout the house
- **D. Seal off all duct boots and vents**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Credit:

Contaminant Control, which includes strategies to prevent contaminants from entering HVAC systems during construction to maintain indoor air quality.

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

EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, Option 3: Construction Indoor Air Quality Management (1-2 points) During construction, seal off all duct boots and vents after HVAC rough-in installation to prevent dust, debris, and other contaminants from entering the system, ensuring clean air distribution upon occupancy.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

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

EQ Credit: Contaminant Control

Sealing duct boots and vents during construction is a required step to prevent contamination of HVAC systems, protecting indoor air quality.

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

The correct answer is seal off all duct boots and vents (Option C), as this prevents contaminants from entering the HVAC system during construction, aligning with the credit's requirements.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

B). Open all the windows in the house: This may help with ventilation but does not protect HVAC systems from construction debris. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

D). Install temporary fans throughout the house: Temporary fans are not a specified strategy for this credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EQ credits, including contaminant control during construction, 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 duct sealing.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

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 contaminant control strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 55

Solar hot water heating systems are rewarded under which Energy and Atmosphere credit?

- A. Renewable Energy
- **B. Efficient Domestic Hot Water Equipment**
- C. Balancing of Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems
- D. High-Efficiency Appliances

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) rewards energy-efficient systems, including solar hot water heating, under the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category. Solar hot water systems reduce energy use for water heating, a significant component of residential energy consumption.

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

EA Credit: Efficient Domestic Hot Water Equipment (1-3 points)

Install high-efficiency water heating equipment, such as solar hot water systems, that meet specified performance criteria (e.g., solar fraction of at least 0.4 for solar systems). Points are awarded based on the efficiency and percentage of hot water demand met by the system.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Efficient Domestic Hot Water Equipment, p. 134.

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

EA Credit: Efficient Domestic Hot Water Equipment

Solar hot water systems qualify for points by reducing energy use for water heating, based on their solar fraction or efficiency.

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

Solar hot water heating systems are rewarded under Efficient Domestic Hot Water Equipment (Option B), as they directly address water heating efficiency.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: High-Efficiency Appliances, p. 136.

C). Renewable Energy: This credit rewards on-site renewable energy generation (e.g., solar photovoltaic panels for electricity), not solar thermal systems for water heating. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Renewable Energy, p. 138.

D). Balancing of Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems: This credit addresses HVAC duct design and balancing, not water heating. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Balancing of Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including water heating efficiency, 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 this credit.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Efficient Domestic Hot Water Equipment, p. 134.

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming solar hot water criteria.

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