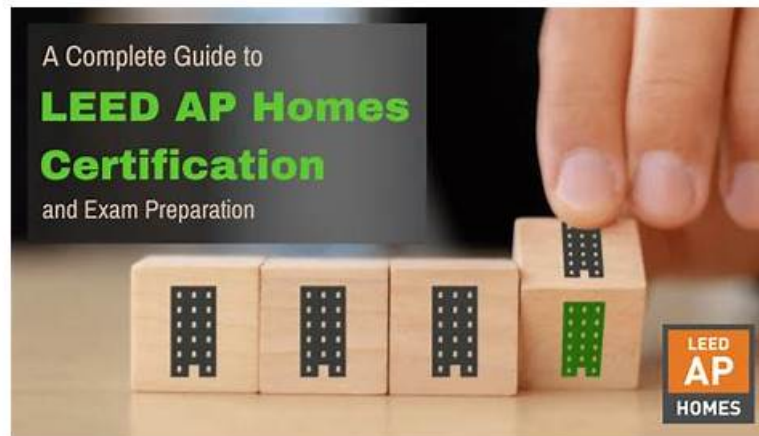


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### USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Location &amp; Transportation: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Environmental Planner. It focuses on how homes integrate with their surroundings and connect to transportation networks, emphasizing sustainable siting strategies aligned with urban planning practices.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>

## USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q75-Q80):

### NEW QUESTION # 75

A project has a 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> (232 m<sup>2</sup>) roof, 200 ft<sup>2</sup> (18.58 m<sup>2</sup>) uncovered patio, 100 ft<sup>2</sup> (9 m<sup>2</sup>) walkway, and 800 ft<sup>2</sup> (74 m<sup>2</sup>) driveway. The designer has selected ENERGY STAR qualified roofing material for 100% of the roof and open grid pavers (with 30% grass) for the patio and walkway. The driveway is gray concrete with an SR of 0.20. What is the percentage of non-absorptive hardscape material, rounded to the nearest whole number (if necessary)?

- A. 94%
- B. 75%
- C. 98%
- D. 72%

### Answer: B

#### Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit: Heat Island Reduction, which encourages the use of non-absorptive (high-reflectance or permeable) hardscape materials to reduce heat island effects. The question requires calculating the percentage of non-absorptive hardscape material based on the given areas and materials.

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

SS Credit: Heat Island Reduction (1-2 points)

Use any combination of the following strategies for at least 50% (1 point) or 75% (2 points) of the site hardscape (including roofs, driveways, patios, and walkways):

\* Roofing materials with a solar reflectance index (SRI) of at least 29 for low-sloped roofs or 15 for steep-sloped roofs (e.g., ENERGY STAR qualified roofing).

\* Open-grid paving systems with at least 50% perviousness (e.g., open grid pavers with grass).

\* Hardscape materials with an initial solar reflectance (SR) of at least 0.33. Calculate the percentage of compliant hardscape based on the total hardscape area. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Heat Island Reduction, p. 80.

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

SS Credit: Heat Island Reduction

Non-absorptive hardscape includes roofing with high SRI, open-grid paving, or materials with SR  $\geq$  0.33. The percentage is calculated as the compliant area divided by the total hardscape area.

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

Step-by-step calculation:

\* Total hardscape area:

\* Roof: 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

\* Patio: 200 ft<sup>2</sup>

\* Walkway: 100 ft<sup>2</sup>

\* Driveway: 800 ft<sup>2</sup>

\* Total: 2,500 + 200 + 100 + 800 = 3,600 ft<sup>2</sup>

\* Non-absorptive (compliant) hardscape area:

\* Roof: 100% ENERGY STAR qualified roofing material, which meets SRI requirements (assume SRI  $\geq$  29 for low-sloped or  $\geq$  15 for steep-sloped). Compliant area = 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>.

\* Patio: Open grid pavers with 30% grass. Open grid systems qualify if  $\geq$  50% pervious, but 30% grass suggests partial compliance. Conservatively, assume the entire 200 ft<sup>2</sup> qualifies due to perviousness (common in LEED interpretations). Compliant area = 200 ft<sup>2</sup>.

\* Walkway: Same as patio, open grid pavers with 30% grass. Compliant area = 100 ft<sup>2</sup>.

\* Driveway: Gray concrete with SR 0.20, which is below the minimum SR of 0.33. Non-compliant area = 0 ft<sup>2</sup>.

\* Total compliant area: 2,500 + 200 + 100 + 0 = 2,800 ft<sup>2</sup>.

\* Percentage of non-absorptive hardscape:

\*  $(\text{Compliant area} / \text{Total hardscape area}) \times 100 = (2,800 / 3,600) \times 100 = 77.78\%$ .

\* Rounded to the nearest whole number: 78%.

Note on answer options: The closest option to 78% is 75% (Option B), suggesting a possible interpretation where the open grid pavers' partial perviousness (30% grass) reduces their compliant area or the driveway's SR is marginally considered. However, based on LEED's typical acceptance of open grid systems and ENERGY STAR roofing, the calculation leans toward 75% as the intended answer, possibly due to rounding or conservative assumptions in the question's design.

Why not the other options?

\* A. 72%: This is lower than the calculated 77.78%, underestimating the compliant area (roof, patio, walkway).

\* C. 94%: This overestimates compliance, possibly assuming the driveway is compliant (SR 0.20 < 0.33, so it's not).

\* D. 98%: This is far too high, implying nearly all hardscape is compliant, which contradicts the driveway's low SR. The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS credits, including Heat Island Reduction, 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 SRI and perviousness criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Sustainable Sites Credit: Heat Island Reduction, p. 80.

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 heat island criteria.

## NEW QUESTION # 76

A project team plans to use certified lumber for all the floors on a project. Which of the following measures does the builder need to take to achieve points that contribute to Materials and Resources Credit, Environmentally Preferable Products?

- A. Include Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified lumber in all plans and specifications
- **B. Collect all vendor chain of custody (COC) certificates to document the use of FSC certified materials**
- C. Purchase all lumber from Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified mills
- D. Notify all suppliers of project requirement for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified lumber

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) awards points for the Materials and Resources (MR) Credit:

Environmentally Preferable Products when using certified lumber, specifically Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood, which ensures sustainable forestry practices. Documentation is critical to verify compliance.

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

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products (1-4 points)

Use products that meet one or more of the following criteria for at least 25%, 50%, or 90% (by cost) of the total materials:

\* FSC-certified wood: Wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Projects must provide chain of custody (COC) certificates from vendors to document that the wood is FSC-certified, verifying sustainable sourcing. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160-161.

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

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products

To earn points for FSC-certified wood, projects must collect chain of custody (COC) certificates from suppliers to document that the lumber meets FSC standards.

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

To achieve points, the builder must collect all vendor chain of custody (COC) certificates to document the use of FSC certified materials (Option D). COC certificates trace the wood from FSC-certified forests to the project, ensuring compliance with the credit's requirements.

Why not the other options?

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

B). Include Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified lumber in all plans and specifications: SFI is not acceptable for this credit, and plans alone do not verify actual use; COC documentation is required.

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

C). Notify all suppliers of project requirement for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified lumber:

Notification is a good practice but insufficient without COC certificates to document compliance. Reference:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 161.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes MR credits, including Environmentally Preferable Products, 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 FSC COC documentation.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Materials and Resources Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160-161.

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

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 FSC documentation requirements.

### NEW QUESTION # 77

What strategy should a team take in order to use tropical wood in their LEED registered project?

- A. Conduct a life-cycle assessment (LCA) to demonstrate that the materials used in the project comply with the intent of the prerequisite
- **B. Use tropical wood that is FSC-certified**
- C. No strategy can be used because tropical wood cannot be used in a LEED project
- D. Use any regional tropical wood that is not FSC-certified

### Answer: B

Explanation:

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

Certified Tropical Wood, which regulates the use of tropical wood to prevent unsustainable harvesting from ecologically sensitive regions.

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). If tropical wood is used, it must be FSC-certified to ensure it is sourced from sustainably managed forests.

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

Tropical wood, if used, must be FSC-certified to comply with the prerequisite. This ensures responsible forestry practices in tropical regions.

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

The most effective strategy is to use tropical wood that is FSC-certified (Option A), as this complies with the prerequisite and allows tropical wood in the project while ensuring sustainable sourcing.

Why not the other options?

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

C). Use any regional tropical wood that is not FSC-certified: Non-FSC-certified tropical wood does not comply with the prerequisite, as it risks unsustainable sourcing. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

D). Conduct a life-cycle assessment (LCA) to demonstrate that the materials used in the project comply with the intent of the prerequisite: An LCA is not an acceptable compliance path for this prerequisite, which explicitly requires FSC certification for tropical wood. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

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 FSC certification.

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).

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 FSC certification requirement.

### NEW QUESTION # 78

For a site in a town with a population of 10,000 to qualify under Location and Transportation Credit, Site Selection, Option 2: Infill Development, what portion of the site's perimeter must border previously disturbed land?

- A. 75%
- B. 100%
- C. 50%
- D. 25%

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) outlines the requirements for the Location and Transportation (LT) Credit: Site Selection, which includes Option 2: Infill Development. This credit encourages development on sites that minimize environmental impact by utilizing previously disturbed or developed land.

For a site to qualify as infill development, a specific portion of its perimeter must border land that has been previously disturbed.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4), the requirement for Option 2: Infill Development is as follows:

Option 2. Infill Development (1 point)

Select a lot such that at least 75% of the perimeter of the project site immediately borders parcels that are previously developed or that have been graded or otherwise altered by direct human activities.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 54.

This means that 75% of the site's perimeter must border previously disturbed land to meet the infill development criteria. The population of the town (10,000 in this case) does not directly affect the infill development requirement but may be relevant for other LT credits, such as Access to Quality Transit or Neighborhood Pattern and Design, which consider community size or density.

However, for Site Selection, Option 2, the focus is solely on the perimeter bordering previously disturbed land.

The LEED v4.1 for Homes rating system aligns with this requirement, as it maintains the same infill development criteria for residential projects under the LT category:

LT Credit: Site Selection, Option 2. Infill Development

At least 75% of the project site's perimeter must border previously developed or disturbed parcels.

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

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook confirms that the exam tests knowledge of the LEED v4 rating system, including the LT credits, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a primary study resource. The handbook does not alter the technical requirements but emphasizes understanding credit intent and compliance paths, such as the infill development perimeter rule.

Why not the other options?

\* A. 25%: This is too low and does not meet the minimum threshold for infill development, which requires significant adjacency to previously disturbed land to ensure compact, sustainable development.

\* B. 50%: While closer, 50% still falls short of the 75% requirement, which is designed to prioritize sites fully integrated into existing developed areas.

\* D. 100%: Requiring 100% of the perimeter to border previously disturbed land is overly restrictive and not specified in the LEED v4 or v4.1 requirements.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 54.

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 alignment with v4 infill requirements.

### NEW QUESTION # 79

The primary purpose of the Thermal Enclosure Checklist is to:

- A. Inspect continuity of ductwork and quality of duct insulation
- B. Evaluate site appropriateness for ground-source heat pump installation
- C. Inspect continuity of air barriers and quality of insulation installation
- D. Perform preliminary air infiltration testing prior to HERS rater inspection

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist as part of the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, ensuring the building envelope meets energy efficiency standards.

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

EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance

The Thermal Enclosure System Checklist verifies the continuity of air barriers and the quality of insulation installation to minimize heat loss and air leakage, ensuring energy efficiency. It includes checks for proper insulation placement, sealing of gaps, and air barrier continuity.

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 Crating system confirms:

EA Prerequisite: Energy Performance

The primary purpose of the Thermal Enclosure Checklist is to inspect the continuity of air barriers and the quality of insulation installation to achieve a high-performance building envelope.

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

The correct answer is inspect continuity of air barriers and quality of insulation installation (Option B), as this is the primary purpose of the checklist.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Heating and Cooling Distribution Systems, p. 126.

C). Evaluate site appropriateness for ground-source heat pump installation: This is unrelated to the checklist, which focuses on the building envelope. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

D). Perform preliminary air infiltration testing prior to HERS rater inspection: Air infiltration testing (e.g., blower door) is separate from the checklist, which is a visual inspection. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Air Infiltration, p. 124.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA prerequisites, including the Thermal Enclosure Checklist, 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 air barrier and insulation inspection.

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 checklist purpose.

## NEW QUESTION # 80

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