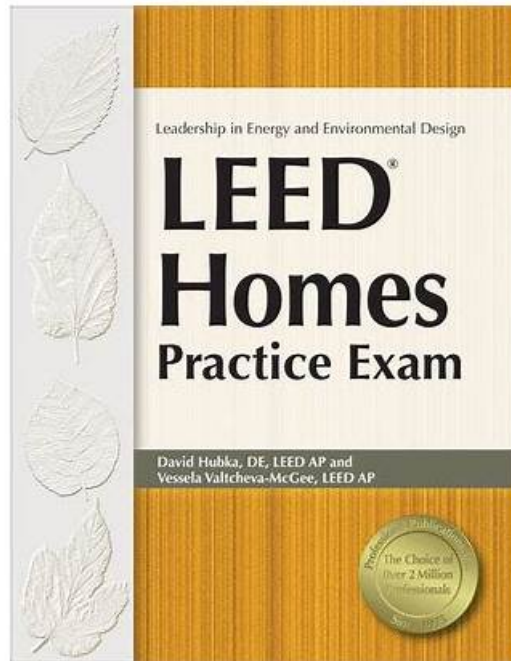


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## USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

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>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.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<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 4	<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 (Q91-Q96):

### NEW QUESTION # 91

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

**Answer: C**

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 # 92

Introduction of outdoor air works to improve indoor air quality by:

- A. Dilution
- B. Source removal
- C. Pressurization
- D. Source control

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses indoor air quality in the Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Prerequisite: Ventilation and EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, which require outdoor air to improve indoor air quality by reducing pollutant concentrations.

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

EQ Prerequisite: Ventilation

Introduce outdoor air to dilute indoor pollutants, improving air quality by reducing the concentration of contaminants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carbon dioxide.

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

Outdoor air ventilation dilutes indoor pollutants, ensuring a healthier indoor environment by lowering contaminant levels.

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

The introduction of outdoor air improves indoor air quality primarily through dilution (Option A), as it mixes with indoor air to reduce pollutant concentrations.

Why not the other options?

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

C). Pressurization: Pressurization controls air movement (e.g., to prevent infiltration), not the primary mechanism for improving air quality via outdoor air. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.

D). Source removal: This involves physically removing pollutant sources, not a function of outdoor air introduction. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit:

Contaminant Control, p. 148.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EQ prerequisites and credits, including ventilation strategies, 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 dilution.

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 ventilation strategies.

### NEW QUESTION # 93

In order to verify that environmentally preferable products are low-emitting, the project team must submit which of the following information?

- A. Date of purchase
- B. Distance from manufacturing facility to project site
- C. Product literature or certification labels
- D. Cost of qualifying product as a percentage of total project cost

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

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

Environmentally Preferable Products when products meet criteria such as low emissions (e.g., low-VOC paints or adhesives).

Verification requires documentation to confirm compliance.

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

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

To verify that products are low-emitting, submit product literature or certification labels (e.g., GREENGUARD, SCS Indoor Advantage) demonstrating compliance with low-VOC or low-emission standards. This documentation confirms that products meet the credit's requirements for indoor environmental quality.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Credit:

Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 161.

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

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products

Low-emitting products must be documented with product literature or third-party certification labels verifying compliance with VOC or emission standards.

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

The correct answer is product literature or certification labels (Option C), as these provide the necessary evidence to verify low-emitting properties.

Why not the other options?

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

B). Cost of qualifying product as a percentage of total project cost: Cost data is used for overall credit calculations, not low-emission verification. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

D). Distance from manufacturing facility to project site: This is relevant for Option 1: Local Production, not low-emission verification. 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 credits, including documentation 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 product literature.

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>).

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 low-emission documentation.

#### NEW QUESTION # 94

To earn credit for Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Space Heating and Cooling Equipment, the HVAC equipment must exceed the requirements set by:

- A. ENERGY STAR for Homes, Prescriptive Path
- B. ACCA Manual J guidelines
- C. ASHRAE 2001 Handbook of Fundamentals
- D. International Energy Conservation Code

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Space Heating and Cooling Equipment, which rewards the use of high-efficiency HVAC equipment that exceeds baseline standards.

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

EA Credit: Space Heating and Cooling Equipment (1-4 points)

Install HVAC equipment that meets or exceeds the efficiency requirements of the ENERGY STAR for Homes program, Prescriptive Path, which specifies minimum efficiency ratings (e.g., SEER, AFUE) for heating and cooling systems.

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

Space Heating and Cooling Equipment, p. 128.

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

EA Credit: Space Heating and Cooling Equipment

HVAC equipment must exceed the efficiency standards set by ENERGY STAR for Homes, Prescriptive Path, to earn points for improved energy performance.

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

The correct answer is ENERGY STAR for Homes, Prescriptive Path (Option A), as this is the benchmark for high-efficiency HVAC equipment in this credit.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Space Heating and Cooling Equipment, p. 128.

C). International Energy Conservation Code: IECC sets baseline energy codes, not the higher efficiency requirements for earning points. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

D). ACCA Manual J guidelines: These are used for sizing HVAC systems, not setting efficiency standards.

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 credits, including HVAC 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 ENERGY STAR standards.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Space Heating and Cooling Equipment, p. 128.

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 ENERGY STAR requirements.

#### NEW QUESTION # 95

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

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

**Answer: A**

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 # 96**

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