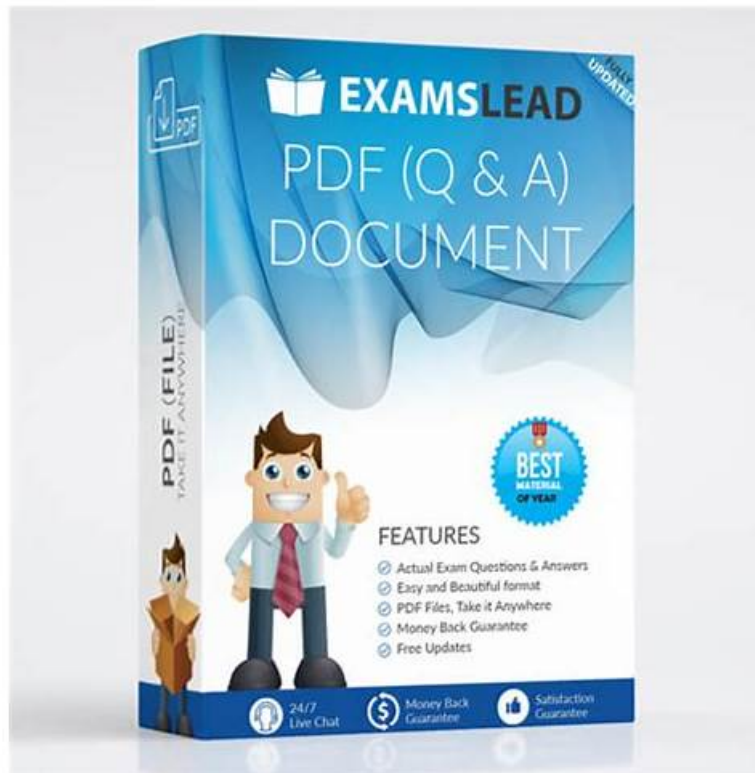


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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Location & 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.
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"> • LEED Process: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Consultant. It covers the comprehensive framework of the LEED Homes certification process, from understanding project eligibility and roles—such as green raters and quality assurance designees—to navigating certification requirements, the LEED verification process, and documentation submission to GBCI.
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USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q28-Q33):

NEW QUESTION # 28

What is the prerequisite for landscaping in Sustainable Sites?

- **A. Introduce no invasive plant species**
- B. Use plants native to the region
- C. Replace known invasive plants
- D. Select plants qualifying as drought tolerant

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Prerequisite: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, which sets requirements for landscaping to protect local ecosystems. A key aspect is preventing the introduction of invasive plant species that can harm biodiversity.

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

SS Prerequisite: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat

Do not introduce any invasive plant species into the landscape. Invasive species are defined as those that are non-native and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause environmental harm.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Prerequisite: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 72.

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

SS Prerequisite: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat

The project must not use invasive plant species in landscaping to protect native ecosystems and prevent ecological disruption.

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

The prerequisite requires that projects introduce no invasive plant species (Option C) to ensure landscaping supports local biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 74.

B). Use plants native to the region: Native plants are encouraged in credits (e.g., WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use or SS Credit: Site Development), but the prerequisite only mandates avoiding invasive species. Reference:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Prerequisite: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 72.

D). Select plants qualifying as drought tolerant: Drought-tolerant plants are relevant to WE Credit:

Outdoor Water Use, not the SS prerequisite. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS prerequisites, including landscaping 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 invasive species requirement.

References:

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

Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 72.

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>).

/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming invasive species prohibition.

NEW QUESTION # 29

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

Answer: D

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>).

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 # 30

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

Answer: D

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 # 31

Which of the following information about showers is necessary to calculate Indoor Water Baseline Consumption?

- A. Fixture flow rates, number of bedrooms, and bathrooms
- B. Number of recirculating shower systems, fixture flow rates, and number of bedrooms
- C. Size of plumbing piping to fixtures, fixture flow rates, and number of bathrooms
- D. Size of shower compartments, fixture flow rate, and number of shower heads

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses indoor water use in the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit:

Indoor Water Use, which requires calculating the baseline water consumption to determine savings from efficient fixtures. For showers, key data points are needed to estimate usage.

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

WE Credit: Indoor Water Use (1-6 points)

Calculate baseline indoor water consumption using fixture flow rates (e.g., gallons per minute for showers), the number of bedrooms (as a proxy for occupancy), and the number of bathrooms to account for all fixtures.

The baseline assumes standard flow rates and typical usage patterns based on occupancy and fixture counts.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Water Efficiency Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

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

WE Credit: Indoor Water Use

Indoor water baseline consumption is calculated using fixture flow rates, the number of bedrooms (to estimate occupants), and the number of bathrooms (to account for fixture distribution).

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

The correct answer is fixture flow rates, number of bedrooms, and bathrooms (Option A), as these are essential for calculating baseline shower water use based on flow rates and estimated occupancy.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

C). Size of shower compartments, fixture flow rate, and number of shower heads: Shower compartment size is irrelevant; the number of showerheads is accounted for in bathroom counts. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

D). Number of recirculating shower systems, fixture flow rates, and number of bedrooms: Recirculating systems are not part of baseline calculations, which assume standard fixtures. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including indoor water calculations, 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 these parameters.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit:

Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

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 baseline consumption parameters.

NEW QUESTION # 32

A project team is pursuing Water Efficiency Credit, Outdoor Water Use. The site contains a total of 57,500 ft² (5,342 m²) of softscape.

What ratio of turf grass and native or adapted landscape is required to achieve four points for this credit? (Refer to the table below)

Turf grass area Native or adapted plant area Points

< 60%

> 25%

1

< 40%

> 50%

2

< 20%

> 75%

3

< 5%
> 75%
4

- A. 4,500 ft² (418 m²) turf grass and 44,000 ft² (4,088 m²) native or adapted landscape
- B. 12,600 ft² (1,171 m²) turf grass and 40,000 ft² (3,716 m²) native or adapted landscape
- C. 11,500 ft² (1,068 m²) turf grass and 40,000 ft² (3,716 m²) native or adapted landscape
- **D. 2,500 ft² (232 m²) turf grass and 44,000 ft² (4,088 m²) native or adapted landscape**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Outdoor Water Use, which awards points based on the ratio of turf grass (high water use) to native or adapted plants (low water use) in the softscape to reduce irrigation needs.

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

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use (1-4 points)

Reduce outdoor water use by selecting native or adapted plants and limiting turf grass. Points are awarded based on the percentage of softscape area:

* < 5% turf grass and > 75% native or adapted plants: 4 points. The total softscape area is used to calculate the percentages of turf grass and native/adapted plants. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98-99.

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

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use

Achieve 4 points by ensuring less than 5% of the softscape is turf grass and more than 75% is native or adapted plants, based on area calculations.

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

Calculation for 4 points:

* Total softscape area: 57,500 ft².

* For 4 points:

* Turf grass: < 5% of 57,500 ft² = < $0.05 \times 57,500$ = < 2,875 ft².

* Native or adapted plants: > 75% of 57,500 ft² = > $0.75 \times 57,500$ = > 43,125 ft².

Evaluate options:

* A. 12,600 ft² turf grass and 40,000 ft² native or adapted:

* Turf grass: $12,600 / 57,500 = 21.91\%$ (> 5%).

* Native: $40,000 / 57,500 = 69.57\%$ (< 75%).

* Does not meet 4-point criteria (only qualifies for 1 point: < 60% turf, > 25% native).

* B. 11,500 ft² turf grass and 40,000 ft² native or adapted:

* Turf grass: $11,500 / 57,500 = 20\%$ (> 5%).

* Native: $40,000 / 57,500 = 69.57\%$ (< 75%).

* Does not meet 4-point criteria (qualifies for 2 points: < 40% turf, > 50% native).

* C. 2,500 ft² turf grass and 44,000 ft² native or adapted:

* Turf grass: $2,500 / 57,500 = 4.35\%$ (< 5%).

* Native: $44,000 / 57,500 = 76.52\%$ (> 75%).

* Meets 4-point criteria.

* D. 4,500 ft² turf grass and 44,000 ft² native or adapted:

* Turf grass: $4,500 / 57,500 = 7.83\%$ (> 5%).

* Native: $44,000 / 57,500 = 76.52\%$ (> 75%).

* Does not meet 4-point criteria (qualifies for 3 points: < 20% turf, > 75% native).

Answer Option C (2,500 ft² turf grass and 44,000 ft² native or adapted landscape) meets the requirements for 4 points.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including outdoor water use, 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 table's criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit:

Outdoor Water Use, p. 98-99.

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>).

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