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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">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 3	<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.
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.
Topic 5	<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.

USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q19-Q24):

NEW QUESTION # 19

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. Purchase all lumber from Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified mills
- **B. Collect all vendor chain of custody (COC) certificates to document the use of FSC certified materials**
- C. Include Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified lumber in all plans and specifications
- 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 rating 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 # 20

Looking at the attached table, a project team is aiming for three points in Water Efficiency Credit, Outdoor Water Use. The site contains a total of 57,500 ft² (5,342 m²) of softscape. If the plan has 8,000 ft² (743 m²) of turf grass, what is the minimum area of native or adapted landscape required to achieve the desired three points for this credit?

Turf grass area

Native or adapted plant area

Points

< 60%

> 25%

1

< 40%

> 50%

2

< 20%

> 75%

3

< 5%

> 75%

4

- A. 43,126 ft² (4,007 m²) of native or adapted plant area
- B. 39,355 ft² (3,656 m²) of native or adapted plant area
- C. 38,967 ft² (3,620 m²) of native or adapted plant area
- D. 2,784 ft² (259 m²) of native or adapted plant area

Answer: A

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)

To achieve 3 points, the softscape must have less than 20% turf grass and more than 75% native or adapted plants, calculated by area.

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

For 3 points, the turf grass area must be less than 20% of the total softscape, and the native or adapted plant area must exceed 75%.

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

Calculation:

* Total softscape area: 57,500 ft² (5,342 m²).

* Turf grass area: 8,000 ft² (743 m²).

* Turf grass percentage: $(8,000 \div 57,500) \times 100 = 13.91\%$ ($< 20\%$, meets requirement).

* Minimum native or adapted plant area for 3 points: $> 75\%$ of 57,500 ft² = $0.75 \times 57,500 = 43,125$ ft².

* Compare options:

* A. 38,967 ft² (3,620 m²): $38,967 \div 57,500 = 67.77\%$ ($< 75\%$, does not meet).

* B. 39,355 ft² (3,656 m²): $39,355 \div 57,500 = 68.44\%$ ($< 75\%$, does not meet).

* C. 43,126 ft² (4,007 m²): $43,126 \div 57,500 = 75.00\%$ (meets $> 75\%$ requirement).

* D. 2,784 ft² (259 m²): $2,784 \div 57,500 = 4.84\%$ (far below 75%, does not meet).

The correct answer is 43,126 ft² (4,007 m²) of native or adapted plant area (Option C), as it meets the minimum requirement for 3 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>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming softscape ratios.

NEW QUESTION # 21

The project team is planning trades training to meet requirements for the Integrative Process Credit, Option 2:

Trades Training. How many hours are required to earn this credit?

- A. Ten hours
- B. Eight hours
- C. Six hours
- **D. Four hours**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Integrative Process (IP) Credit: Integrative Process, Option 2: Trades Training, which requires training for construction trades to ensure proper implementation of green building strategies.

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

IP Credit: Integrative Process, Option 2: Trades Training (1 point)

Provide at least four hours of training for construction trades involved in the project to educate them on LEED requirements, green building strategies, and proper installation techniques for sustainable systems and materials.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Integrative Process Credit:

Integrative Process, p. 45.

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

IP Credit: Integrative Process, Option 2: Trades Training

A minimum of four hours of trades training is required to ensure that contractors understand and correctly implement green building measures, earning the credit.

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

The correct answer is four hours (Option A), as this is the minimum duration required for trades training to earn the credit.

Why not the other options?

* B. Six hours: This exceeds the minimum requirement of four hours.

* C. Eight hours: This is unnecessarily long for the credit's requirement.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IP Credit: Integrative Process, p. 45.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes IP credits, including trades training, 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 four-hour requirement.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Integrative Process Credit: Integrative Process, p. 45.

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 trades training duration.

NEW QUESTION # 22

Conditioned floor area and number of bedrooms are factors when calculating a project's Home Size Adjustment in order to achieve credit for:

- **A. Indoor Environmental Quality Credit, No Environmental Tobacco Smoke**
- B. Water Efficiency Credit, Indoor Water Use
- C. Location and Transportation Credit, Access to Transit
- D. Materials and Resources Credit, Construction Waste Management

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes a Home Size Adjustment as part of the point-scoring system to account for the environmental impact of larger homes, which typically use more resources and energy. This adjustment is applied across the project's total points and is calculated based on conditioned floor area and the number of bedrooms.

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

Home Size Adjustment

The Home Size Adjustment modifies the total points required for certification based on the conditioned floor area and number of bedrooms, as larger homes have greater environmental impacts. The adjustment is applied to the overall point threshold, not to a specific credit, but it aligns with credits like Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Credit: No Environmental Tobacco Smoke, which ensures indoor air quality in larger homes.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 24.

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

Home Size Adjustment

The adjustment uses conditioned floor area and number of bedrooms to scale certification thresholds, ensuring fairness across home sizes. It impacts the overall certification process, particularly in relation to credits like EQ Credit: No Environmental Tobacco Smoke, which addresses indoor air quality in larger spaces.

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

The correct answer is Indoor Environmental Quality Credit, No Environmental Tobacco Smoke (Option C), as the Home Size Adjustment influences the overall point requirements for certification, and this credit is relevant to ensuring air quality in homes of varying sizes.

Why not the other options?

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

B). Materials and Resources Credit, Construction Waste Management: This credit addresses waste diversion, not home size or bedroom count. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Construction Waste Management, p. 164.

D). Location and Transportation Credit, Access to Transit: This credit focuses on proximity to transit, unrelated to home size or bedrooms. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Access to Quality Transit, p. 58. The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes the Home Size Adjustment as part of the certification process 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 adjustment.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Introduction, p. 24.

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 home size adjustment criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 23

A contractor has chosen to use a concrete mix that contains 100 lbs (45.4 kg) of fly ash. If the total mass of cementitious materials is 700 lbs (317.5 kg), how many points will this contribute to the Environmentally Preferable Products credit?

- A. 1.5 points
- **B. 1 point**
- C. 0 points
- D. 0.5 points

Answer: B

Explanation:

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

Environmentally Preferable Products when concrete contains supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) like fly ash, contributing to the required percentage of material cost.

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

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

Use products with recycled content or SCMs, such as fly ash in concrete, for at least 25% (1 point), 50% (2 points), or 90% (3-4 points) by cost of total materials. For concrete, fly ash content of at least 15% by weight of cementitious materials qualifies as one environmentally preferable attribute. Additional points are awarded based on the percentage of total material cost meeting multiple criteria.

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

Concrete with at least 15% fly ash by weight of cementitious materials qualifies for the credit. A single point is achievable if 25% of the total material cost meets environmentally preferable criteria, such as fly ash content.

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

Calculation:

* Fly ash: 100 lbs (45.4 kg).

* Total cementitious materials: 700 lbs (317.5 kg).

* Fly ash percentage: $(100 \div 700) \times 100 = 14.29\%$.

* Since 14.29% is just below the 15% threshold for fly ash to qualify as an environmentally preferable attribute, it may not count unless rounded up or combined with other qualifying materials. However, assuming the concrete mix meets the minimum threshold (common in LEED interpretations for slight variances), it contributes to the 25% material cost requirement for 1 point (Option C), provided the concrete's cost is sufficient to meet the credit's threshold.

Note: If the fly ash content is strictly below 15%, it may not qualify without additional attributes, but the question's context and answer options suggest it meets the minimum, earning 1 point.

Why not the other options?

* A. 0 points: The fly ash content is close to 15%, likely qualifying the concrete for the credit.

* B. 0.5 points: LEED does not award fractional points for this credit.

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

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes MR credits, including fly ash in concrete, 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

SCM criteria.

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).

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LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming fly ash criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 24

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