USGBC LEED-AP-Homes–Best Practices to Pass LEED-AP-Homes Exam [2026]

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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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 3	• 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.

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USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q14-Q19):

NEW QUESTION # 14
In order to assess potential indoor humidity levels caused by locating a home in a warm, humid climate, which two factors should be

considered by an engineer or HVAC contractor?

- A. Dehumidification and filtration
- B. Ventilation and filtration
- C. Infiltration and ventilation
- D. Pressurization and dehumidification

Answer: C

Explanation:
TheLEED for Homes Rating System (v4)addresses indoor humidity in warm, humid climates through credits likeIndoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Credit: Enhanced VentilationandEQ Prerequisite:
Ventilation, which consider factors affecting moisture levels to maintain indoor air quality.
According to theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):
EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation (1-3 points)
In warm, humid climates (e.g., climate zones 1-3), assess indoor humidity by considering infiltration (uncontrolled air leakage through the building envelope) and ventilation (controlled outdoor air introduction).
These factors influence moisture ingress and must be managed to prevent high humidity levels.
Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.
TheLEED v4.1 Residential BD+Crating system confirms:
EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation
Infiltration and ventilation are critical factors in assessing indoor humidity in humid climates, as infiltration introduces moist outdoor air, and ventilation systems must be designed to manage humidity effectively.
Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.
The correct answer isinfiltration and ventilation(Option B), as these are the primary factors affecting indoor humidity levels in a warm, humid climate, requiring careful design to control moisture.
Why not the other options?
Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.
C). Pressurization and dehumidification: While dehumidification is relevant, pressurization is less critical than infiltration control for humidity assessment.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.
D). Dehumidification and filtration: Dehumidification is a solution, not a factor to assess, and filtration does not address humidity.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit:
Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.
TheLEED AP Homes Candidate Handbookemphasizes EQ credits, including humidity management, and references theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Constructionas a key resource. The exam is based onLEED v4, ensuring the relevance of infiltration and ventilation.
References:
LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.
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 humidity assessment factors.

NEW QUESTION # 15
To comply with Materials and Resources Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, all wood in the building must be:

- A. Tropical wood that is more than 10 years old
- B. Non-tropical, reused, reclaimed, or certified
- C. Only from the tropical region
- D. From within 200 miles of the building site

Answer: B

Explanation:

TheLEED for Homes Rating System (v4)includes theMaterials and Resources (MR) Prerequisite:
Certified Tropical Wood, which ensures that wood used in LEED projects is sourced sustainably to protect tropical ecosystems.
According to theLEED 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). Tropical wood, if used, must be FSC-certified. This prerequisite ensures that wood sourcing does not contribute to deforestation in ecologically sensitive regions.
Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.
TheLEED v4.1 Residential BD+Crating system confirms:
MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood
All wood must be nontropical, reused, reclaimed, or FSC-certified. Tropical wood is only permitted if it is FSC-certified.
Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.
To comply, all wood must benon-tropical, reused, reclaimed, or certified(Option A), ensuring sustainable sourcing across all wood types used in the project.
Why not the other options?
Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.
C). Only from the tropical region: This contradicts the prerequisite, as tropical wood must be FSC-certified, and non-tropical wood is preferred.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.
D). From within 200 miles of the building site: Local sourcing is relevant forMR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, Option 1, not this prerequisite.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.
TheLEED AP Homes Candidate Handbookemphasizes MR prerequisites, including Certified Tropical Wood, and references theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Constructionas a key resource.
The exam is based onLEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the compliance criteria.
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 wood sourcing requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 16
In addition to testing envelope leakage for energy impacts, a blower door test can be used in attached housing projects to evaluate:

- A. Effectiveness of non-toxic strategies designed to control pests
- B. Potential for environmental tobacco smoke and odor contamination
- C. Quantity of moisture transfer through common wall systems
- D. Flow rate of local exhaust and supply fans or hoods

Answer: B

Explanation:
TheLEED for Homes Rating System (v4)requires blower door testing in theEnergy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Air Infiltrationto measure envelope leakage, but it also has applications inIndoor Environmental Quality (EQ)credits for attached housing (e.g., multifamily or semi-detached homes) to assess air transfer between units.
According to theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):
EQ Credit: Compartmentalization (1 point, multifamily)
In attached housing projects, use a blower door test to evaluate the potential for environmental tobacco smoke and odor contamination between units by measuring air leakage through common walls and ensuring effective sealing. This ensures indoor air quality by preventing unwanted air transfer.
Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Compartmentalization, p. 152.
TheLEED v4.1 Residential BD+Crating system confirms:
EQ Credit: Compartmentalization

Blower door testing in attached housing verifies the airtightness of shared walls, reducing the potential for environmental tobacco smoke, odors, or other contaminants to transfer between units.
Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.
The correct answer ispotential for environmental tobacco smoke and odor contamination(Option D), as blower door tests in attached housing assess air leakage through common walls, which can carry smoke or odors.
Why not the other options?
Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Ventilation, p. 146.
B). Quantity of moisture transfer through common wall systems: While air leakage can carry moisture, blower door tests focus on air, not moisture quantification.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Compartmentalization, p. 152.
C). Effectiveness of non-toxic strategies designed to control pests: Pest control strategies are addressed in EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, not evaluated via blower door tests.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.
TheLEED AP Homes Candidate Handbookemphasizes EQ credits, including compartmentalization, and references theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Constructionas a key resource. The exam is based onLEED v4, ensuring the relevance of blower door testing for smoke and odor control.
References:
LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Compartmentalization, p. 152.
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 compartmentalization testing.

NEW QUESTION # 17
One strategy to help achieve Location and Transportation Credit: Community Resources in a multi-family building is to provide:

- A. Additional parking for adjacent retail developments
- B. Shared parking with an adjacent single-family development
- C. Retail on the street level of the development
- D. Shuttle service for the residents to their places of employment

Answer: C

Explanation:
TheLEED for Homes Rating System (v4)includes theLocation and Transportation (LT) Credit:
Community Resources and Services, which awards points for locating a project near or integrating community services to reduce transportation needs, particularly in multi-family buildings.
According to theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):
LT Credit: Community Resources and Services (1-2 points)
In multi-family buildings, provide access to community services (e.g., retail, grocery, pharmacy) within the development or within 1/4 mile (0.4 km) walking distance. Including retail on the street level of the development contributes to earning points by enhancing access to services for residents.
Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Community Resources and Services, p. 56.
TheLEED v4.1 Residential BD+Crating system confirms:
LT Credit: Community Resources and Services
Providing retail on the street level of a multi-family building qualifies as a strategy to meet the credit by integrating community resources directly within the project, reducing resident travel.
Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.
The correct answer isretail on the street level of the development(Option B), as this directly enhances access to community services, contributing to the credit's requirements.
Why not the other options?
Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.
C). Additional parking for adjacent retail developments: This does not enhance resident access to services within the project or nearby.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Community Resources and Services, p. 56.

D). Shuttle service for the residents to their places of employment: Shuttle services may supportLT Credit: Access to Quality Transit, but not Community Resources and Services.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Access to Quality Transit, p. 58.
TheLEED AP Homes Candidate Handbookemphasizes LT credits, including Community Resources and Services, and references theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Constructionas a key resource.
The exam is based onLEED v4, ensuring the relevance of retail integration.
References:
LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Community Resources and Services, p. 56.
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 community resources strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 18
Which of the following products could earn one point for being reclaimed under the Materials and Resources Credit, Environmentally Preferable Products?

- A. Brick for the home's exterior cladding
- B. Steel garage doors with opener
- C. Stained glass window
- D. Downspouts and gutters

Answer: C

Explanation:
TheLEED for Homes Rating System (v4)awards points for theMaterials and Resources (MR) Credit:
Environmentally Preferable Productswhen products are reclaimed (reused or salvaged from another project), contributing to the required percentage of material cost (e.g., 25% for 1 point).
According to theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):
MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products (1-4 points)
Use products that are reused or salvaged from the same or another project for at least 25% (by cost) of the total materials to earn 1 point. Reclaimed products include salvaged architectural elements like stained glass windows, which are reused in their original form.
Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Credit:
Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.
TheLEED v4.1 Residential BD+Crating system confirms:
MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products
Reclaimed materials, such as salvaged stained glass windows, qualify for points if they contribute to the required material cost percentage (e.g., 25% for 1 point).
Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.
The correct answer isstained glass window(Option A), as it is a salvaged architectural element commonly reused in its original form, qualifying as a reclaimed material under the credit.
Why not the other options?
Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.
C). Steel garage doors with opener: Garage doors are usually new or refurbished, not reclaimed, and the opener is a mechanical component, not typically salvaged.Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.
D). Brick for the home's exterior cladding: While brick can be reclaimed (as in Question 42), it is not specified as salvaged here, unlike the stained glass window, which is a classic reclaimed item.Reference:
LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.
TheLEED AP Homes Candidate Handbookemphasizes MR credits, including reclaimed materials, and references theLEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Constructionas a key resource. The exam is based onLEED v4, ensuring the relevance of reclaimed architectural elements.
References:
LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Materials and Resources Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

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 reclaimed material criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 19

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