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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 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">• 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 4	<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 5	<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.

USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q66-Q71):

NEW QUESTION # 66

A shower stall was installed adjacent to an exterior wall prior to insulation installation. What is the impact to LEED for Homes certification?

- A. The prescriptive path for Energy and Atmosphere cannot be used
- B. The overall R-value of the home's insulation must be increased to compensate for the deficit
- C. The home energy model must include this feature so the HERS index score reflects it
- D. The home cannot be LEED certified until the walls are insulated in compliance with the Thermal Enclosure Checklist

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Prerequisite:

Minimum Energy Performance, which requires compliance with the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist to ensure proper insulation and airtightness for energy efficiency.

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

EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance

The project must comply with the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist, which requires that all exterior walls be fully insulated to meet or exceed specified R-values before other components (e.g., shower stalls) are installed. Insulation must be installed behind shower stalls or other fixtures adjacent to exterior walls to prevent thermal bridging and ensure compliance. Non-compliance with the checklist prevents certification until corrected.

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 rating system confirms:

EA Prerequisite: Energy Performance

All exterior walls must be insulated in accordance with the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist. If components like shower stalls are installed before insulation, the home cannot be certified until the walls are properly insulated to meet the checklist requirements.

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

The correct answer is the home cannot be LEED certified until the walls are insulated in compliance with the Thermal Enclosure Checklist (Option D), as installing a shower stall before insulation violates the prerequisite's requirement for proper insulation installation.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

B). The home energy model must include this feature so the HERS index score reflects it: The HERS model assumes proper insulation; the issue is a construction error, not a modeling requirement. Reference:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

C). The overall R-value of the home's insulation must be increased to compensate for the deficit:

Increasing R-value elsewhere does not address the specific checklist requirement for insulation behind the shower stall. 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 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 insulation compliance.

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 insulation checklist requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 67

A project team wants to earn credit for Location and Transportation Credit, Site Selection, Option 3: Open Space. A qualifying lot should be located within:

- A. 3/4 mi. (1.2 km) of a publicly accessible park that is 3/4 acre (0.3 hectare) in size
- B. 1/2 mi. (0.8 km) of a pond surrounded by a 1/2 acre (0.2 hectare) walkway, and across the street from a 1/4 acre (0.1 hectare) publicly accessible park
- C. 3/4 mi. (1.2 km) of a 1/4 acre (0.1 hectare) publicly accessible park, across the street from a 1/4 acre (0.1 hectare) lot which is private land open to the public
- D. 1/2 mi. (0.8 km) of a 3/4 acre (0.3 hectare) cornfield

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Location and Transportation (LT) Credit: Site Selection, Option 3: Open Space, which encourages projects to be located near publicly accessible open spaces to promote recreation and environmental benefits.

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

LT Credit: Site Selection, Option 3: Open Space (1 point)

Locate the project within a 1/2-mile (0.8-kilometer) walking distance of a publicly accessible open space that is at least 0.75 acre (0.3 hectare) in size. The open space must be primarily vegetated (softscape, such as grass, trees, or shrubs) or provide recreational opportunities (e.g., playgrounds, trails). Acceptable open spaces include parks, playgrounds, or nature preserves, but not water bodies or privately restricted areas.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 55.

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

LT Credit: Site Selection, Option 3: Open Space

The open space must be at least 0.75 acre (0.3 hectare), publicly accessible, and within 1/2 mile (0.8 km) of the project. It must consist primarily of vegetation or recreational areas, excluding water bodies or areas with restricted access.

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

Evaluation of options:

* A. 1/2 mi. (0.8 km) of a 3/4 acre (0.3 hectare) cornfield: A cornfield is agricultural land, not a publicly accessible recreational or vegetated open space as defined by LEED, so it does not qualify.

* B. 3/4 mi. (1.2 km) of a publicly accessible park that is 3/4 acre (0.3 hectare) in size: The distance (3/4 mi.) exceeds the 1/2-mile (0.8 km) requirement, so it does not qualify.

* C. 1/2 mi. (0.8 km) of a pond surrounded by a 1/2 acre (0.2 hectare) walkway, and across the street from a 1/4 acre (0.1 hectare) publicly accessible park: The pond is excluded (water bodies do not qualify), and the walkway (0.2 hectare) and park (0.1 hectare) together total 0.3 hectare (0.75 acre), meeting the size requirement within 1/2 mile. Assuming the walkway is vegetated or

recreational, this qualifies.

* D. 3/4 mi. (1.2 km) of a 1/4 acre (0.1 hectare) publicly accessible park, across the street from a 1/4 acre (0.1 hectare) lot which is private land open to the public: The distance (3/4 mi.) exceeds 1/2 mile, and the combined area (0.2 hectare) is below 0.3 hectare. Private land, even if publicly accessible, may not fully qualify without clear documentation.

The correct answer is Option C, as it meets the 1/2-mile distance and the combined 0.75-acre size requirement, assuming the walkway is vegetated or recreational.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes LT credits, including Site Selection, 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 open space criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 55.

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 open space criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 68

Which member of the verification team conducts field inspections of LEED prerequisites and credits?

- A. LEED Green Rater
- B. LEED for Homes QAD
- C. Energy Rater
- D. LEED for Homes Provider

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) requires third-party verification for prerequisites and credits, with specific roles defined for the verification team. The LEED Green Rater is responsible for conducting field inspections to verify compliance.

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

Verification Process

The LEED Green Rater, a trained professional certified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), conducts field inspections to verify compliance with LEED for Homes prerequisites and credits, including energy, water, and indoor environmental quality measures.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 28.

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

Verification Process

The LEED Green Rater performs on-site inspections to ensure that the project meets all prerequisites and targeted credits, documenting compliance for certification.

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

The correct answer is LEED Green Rater (Option D), as this team member is responsible for field inspections of LEED prerequisites and credits.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

B). LEED for Homes Provider: The Provider oversees the certification process and coordinates verification but does not conduct field inspections. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 28.

C). LEED for Homes QAD: The Quality Assurance Designee (QAD) reviews documentation for quality control, not field inspections. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 28.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes the verification process, including the role of the Green Rater, 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 Green Rater's role.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Introduction, p. 28.

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 verification roles.

NEW QUESTION # 69

An existing home in a gut rehab LEED for Homes project reclaims all of the original framing. An addition is built with 90% FSC-certified wood. Which credit, if any, under Materials and Resources, will be earned?

- A. Construction Waste Management
- **B. Environmentally Preferable Products**
- C. No credit will be awarded
- D. Material-Efficient Framing

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes several credits under the Materials and Resources (MR) category that encourage sustainable material use, including reclaimed materials and certified wood. The scenario describes a gut rehab project that reclaims all original framing and builds an addition with 90% FSC-certified wood. We need to determine which MR credit applies.

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

Environmentally Preferable Products rewards the use of materials that have environmentally beneficial attributes, such as reclaimed materials and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)-certified wood:

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 in the project:

* Reused or salvaged materials: Materials that are reclaimed from the same or another project.

* FSC-certified wood: Wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council for sustainable forestry practices. For gut rehab projects, reclaimed framing materials and FSC-certified wood in additions contribute to the percentage of environmentally preferable products. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

In this case:

* Reclaimed framing: The gut rehab reclaims 100% of the original framing, which qualifies as reused or salvaged materials under the credit.

* FSC-certified wood: The addition uses 90% FSC-certified wood, which also qualifies as an environmentally preferable product.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Rating system aligns with this approach:

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products

Projects earn points by using products that are salvaged, recycled, or FSC-certified for at least 25%, 50%, or 90% of the material cost. For renovations, salvaged framing and certified wood in additions are eligible.

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

Since the project uses both reclaimed framing (100% of the original) and 90% FSC-certified wood in the addition, it meets the criteria for Environmentally Preferable Products, provided the combined material cost meets the 25%, 50%, or 90% thresholds. The high percentage of FSC-certified wood and full reclamation of framing make it likely to achieve at least one point.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Construction Waste Management, p. 164.

B). No credit will be awarded: This is incorrect, as the use of reclaimed framing and FSC-certified wood directly contributes to the Environmentally Preferable Products credit.

C). Material-Efficient Framing: This credit rewards practices that reduce framing material use, such as advanced framing techniques (e.g., 24-inch on-center stud spacing) or minimizing waste during design.

Reclaiming framing or using FSC-certified wood does not address framing efficiency. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Material-Efficient Framing, p. 158.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook confirms that the exam tests MR credits, including Environmentally Preferable Products, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a primary resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of this credit.

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 environmentally preferable product criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 70

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) requires blower door testing in the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Air Infiltration to measure envelope leakage, but it also has applications in Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) credits for attached housing (e.g., multifamily or semi-detached homes) to assess air transfer between units.

According to the LEED 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.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Rating 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 is potential 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.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EQ credits, including compartmentalization, 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 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 # 71

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