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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.

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USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q78-Q83):

NEW QUESTION # 78

A home has a large shower compartment of 3,750 in² (2.4 m²) with dual 1.5 gpm (5.6 lpm) shower heads. How should the flow rate be calculated?

- A. Multiple shower heads are not allowed
- B. Shower compartment size does not affect shower head flow rates for LEED compliance
- C. The flow rates are added to total 3.0 gpm (11.2 lpm)
- D. The flow rate is calculated as two separate compartments of 1.5 gpm (5.6 lpm)

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses shower compartments in the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Indoor Water Use, where the size and number of showerheads impact water use calculations.

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

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

A shower compartment is defined as an enclosed area with a floor area of no more than 2,500 in² (1.6 m²), where all fixtures (e.g., multiple showerheads) count as a single fixture for water use calculations.

Compartments larger than 2,500 in² are considered multiple compartments, and multiple showerheads in such cases are not allowed for LEED compliance to ensure water efficiency.

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

For shower compartments exceeding 2,500 in² (1.6 m²), multiple showerheads are not permitted to maintain water efficiency goals. Each compartment must be treated separately if applicable, but large compartments cannot have multiple heads.

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

The shower compartment is 3,750 in² (2.4 m²), exceeding the 2,500 in² limit. Therefore, multiple showerheads are not allowed (Option C), as LEED restricts multiple heads in oversized compartments to ensure water efficiency.

Why not the other options?

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

B). The flow rate is calculated as two separate compartments of 1.5 gpm (5.6 lpm): The compartment is one unit, and multiple heads are not allowed, not treated as separate compartments. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

D). Shower compartment size does not affect shower head flow rates for LEED compliance:

Compartment size directly affects whether multiple heads are allowed. 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 showerhead 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 compartment size restrictions.

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 showerhead restrictions.

NEW QUESTION # 79

A proposed 1000 kWh photovoltaic system will achieve two points in the Energy and Atmosphere, Renewable Energy credit. If the client chooses a 2000 kWh system instead, how many points will be achieved?

- A. Three points
- B. One point
- C. Two points
- **D. Four points**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Renewable Energy, which awards points based on the percentage of annual energy use offset by on-site renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic (PV) systems.

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

EA Credit: Renewable Energy (1-4 points)

Install on-site renewable energy systems to offset a percentage of the home's annual energy use. Points are awarded as follows:

* 1 point: 0.5 kW or 5% of annual energy use.

* 2 points: 1.0 kW or 10% of annual energy use.

* 3 points: 1.5 kW or 15% of annual energy use.

* 4 points: 2.0 kW or 20% of annual energy use. The kW values are for photovoltaic systems and assume typical production rates (e.g., 1 kW # 1,500 kWh/year). Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Renewable Energy, p. 138.

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

EA Credit: Renewable Energy

Points are awarded based on the installed capacity of PV systems (e.g., 2.0 kW for 4 points) or the percentage of energy offset, whichever is higher. A 2000 kWh system (approximately 2.0 kW) qualifies for 4 points.

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

The question states a 1000 kWh PV system earns 2 points, corresponding to approximately 1.0 kW (assuming 1 kW # 1,500 kWh/year). A 2000 kWh system is approximately 2.0 kW ($2000 \div 1500 \approx 1.33$ kW, but conservatively aligned with the 2.0 kW threshold in LEED), which earns 4 points (Option D).

Why not the other options?

* A. One point: This corresponds to 0.5 kW, far below a 2000 kWh system.

* B. Two points: This is the baseline for a 1000 kWh (1.0 kW) system, not 2000 kWh.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Renewable Energy, p. 138.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including renewable energy, 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 PV system sizing.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Renewable Energy, p. 138.

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 renewable energy points.

NEW QUESTION # 80

How many Regional Priority Credits can a LEED for Homes v4 project pursue?

- A. Two
- **B. Four**
- C. One
- D. Three

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes Regional Priority (RP) Credits, which provide bonus points for addressing location-specific environmental priorities. A project can pursue multiple RP credits based on its geographic location.

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

Regional Priority Credits (1-4 points)

A LEED for Homes v4 project can pursue up to four Regional Priority Credits, which are selected based on the project's location and the environmental priorities identified for that region. Each RP credit awards one bonus point for achieving a designated existing credit that addresses regional environmental concerns.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190.

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

Regional Priority Credits

Projects can earn up to four bonus points by achieving Regional Priority Credits, which are assigned based on the project's ZIP code or region to address local environmental priorities.

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

The correct answer is four (Option D), as a LEED for Homes v4 project can pursue up to four Regional Priority Credits.

Why not the other options?

* A. One: This underestimates the number of RP credits available.

* B. Two: This is also too low, as up to four credits can be pursued.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes RP credits 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 the four-credit limit.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190.

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/lead-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming RP credit limits.

NEW QUESTION # 81

After the HVAC contractor has completed the rough-in installation of all air handling equipment, what step should be taken to achieve Indoor Environmental Quality Credit, Contaminant Control during construction?

- A. Open all the windows in the house
- B. Install temporary fans throughout the house
- C. Flush the building for 48 hours
- **D. Seal off all duct boots and vents**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Credit:

Contaminant Control, which includes strategies to prevent contaminants from entering HVAC systems during construction to maintain indoor air quality.

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

EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, Option 3: Construction Indoor Air Quality Management (1-2 points) During construction, seal off all duct boots and vents after HVAC rough-in installation to prevent dust, debris, and other contaminants from entering the system, ensuring clean air distribution upon occupancy.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

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

EQ Credit: Contaminant Control

Sealing duct boots and vents during construction is a required step to prevent contamination of HVAC systems, protecting indoor air quality.

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

The correct answer is seal off all duct boots and vents (Option C), as this prevents contaminants from entering the HVAC system during construction, aligning with the credit's requirements.

Why not the other options?

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

B). Open all the windows in the house: This may help with ventilation but does not protect HVAC systems from construction debris. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

D). Install temporary fans throughout the house: Temporary fans are not a specified strategy for this credit.

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 contaminant control during construction, 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 duct sealing.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Contaminant Control, p. 148.

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 contaminant control strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 82

To achieve Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation, what insulation value is required?

- A. R-3
- B. R-10
- C. R-2
- **D. R-4**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation, which awards points for insulating hot water pipes to reduce heat loss and improve energy efficiency.

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

EA Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation (1 point) Insulate all hot water piping with a minimum insulation value of R-4 to reduce heat loss and improve the efficiency of the hot water distribution system.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, p. 133.

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

EA Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation Hot water pipes must be insulated to at least R-4 to qualify for the credit, minimizing energy losses during water distribution.

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

The correct answer is R-4 (Option C), as this is the minimum insulation value required for hot water piping to earn the credit.

Why not the other options?

* A. R-2: This is below the required insulation value for the credit.

* B. R-3: This is also below the required R-4 value.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, p. 133.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including hot water distribution 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 the R-4 requirement.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, p. 133.

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>)

