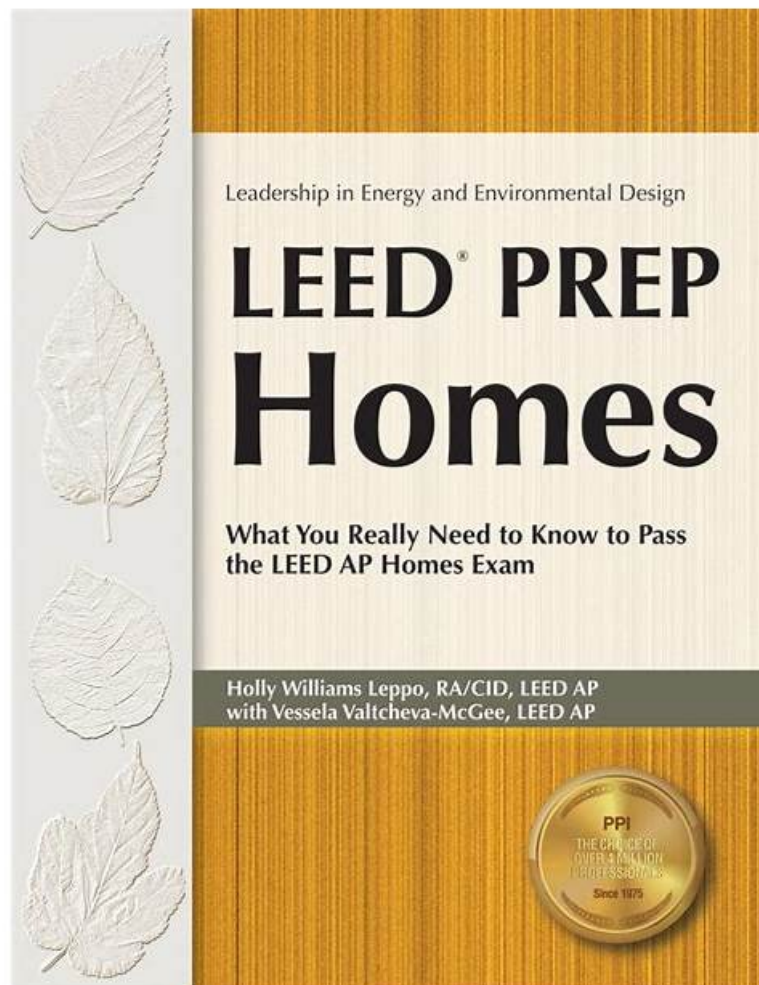


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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

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

NEW QUESTION # 14

Which of the following strategies contributes to achieving Sustainable Sites Credit, Rainwater Management?

- A. Direct rainwater runoff toward an appropriate permanent infiltration feature
- B. Use drought-resistant vegetation in all planting areas
- C. Install a graywater collection system with filtration for irrigation and non-potable use
- D. Provide filtration of the stormwater runoff before discharging into the city storm system

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit: Rainwater Management, which aims to reduce stormwater runoff and its environmental impacts through on-site management strategies.

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

SS Credit: Rainwater Management (1-3 points)

Manage stormwater runoff through strategies such as directing runoff to permanent infiltration features (e.g., rain gardens, permeable paving, or bioswales) to reduce the volume and rate of runoff entering storm sewers.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

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

SS Credit: Rainwater Management

Directing rainwater runoff to permanent infiltration features, such as rain gardens or infiltration trenches, contributes to credit achievement by promoting on-site retention and reducing stormwater discharge.

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

The correct answer is direct rainwater runoff toward an appropriate permanent infiltration feature (Option A), as this directly reduces runoff volume, aligning with the credit's intent.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

C). Install a graywater collection system with filtration for irrigation and non-potable use: Graywater systems are addressed in WE Credit: Indoor Water Use or WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, not stormwater management. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

D). Provide filtration of the stormwater runoff before discharging into the city storm system: Filtration improves water quality but does not reduce runoff volume, which is the primary goal of the Rainwater Management credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS credits, including rainwater management, 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 infiltration strategies.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Sustainable Sites Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

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 rainwater management strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 15

What combination of WaterSense showerheads will achieve Water Efficiency Credit, Indoor Water Use?

- A. Master shower with one head at 3.0 gpm (11.4 lpm), three secondary showers with one head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm)
- **B. Master shower with one head at 2.2 gpm (8.3 lpm), two secondary showers with one head each at 1.6 gpm (6.1 lpm)**
- C. Master shower with one head at 2.5 gpm (9.5 lpm), two secondary showers with one head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm)
- D. Master shower with two heads each at 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm), three secondary showers with one head each at 1.0 gpm (3.8 lpm)

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Indoor Water Use, which awards points for reducing water consumption through WaterSense-labeled fixtures, including showerheads, which must have flow rates at or below 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm) to achieve significant savings.

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

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

Install WaterSense-labeled showerheads with a maximum flow rate of 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm) to achieve water savings compared to the baseline of 2.5 gpm (9.5 lpm). Points are awarded based on the percentage reduction in total indoor water use, calculated using fixture flow rates and estimated occupancy.

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

WaterSense showerheads with flow rates at or below 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm) contribute to achieving the credit by reducing water consumption. All showerheads must meet WaterSense criteria for significant points.

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

Evaluation of options (assuming WaterSense labeling requires # 2.0 gpm):

* A. Master shower: 1 head at 2.2 gpm (8.3 lpm), two secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.6 gpm (6.1 lpm): The master shower exceeds the WaterSense limit (2.0 gpm), but the question's flow rate (2.2 gpm) may reflect a typo or outdated baseline. Assuming 2.0 gpm for WaterSense compliance, and 1.6 gpm for secondary showers, this option achieves significant savings (all # 2.0 gpm).

* B. Master shower: 1 head at 2.5 gpm (9.5 lpm), two secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm): The master shower at 2.5 gpm exceeds WaterSense criteria, disqualifying it.

* C. Master shower: 2 heads at 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm), three secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.0 gpm (3.8 lpm): All heads meet WaterSense (# 2.0 gpm), but multiple heads (total 7.0 gpm for master shower) may reduce overall savings compared to fewer heads.

* D. Master shower: 1 head at 3.0 gpm (11.4 lpm), three secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm): The master shower at 3.0 gpm exceeds WaterSense criteria, disqualifying it.

Note: The flow rate in Option A (2.2 gpm) appears inconsistent with WaterSense (# 2.0 gpm). Assuming a correction to 2.0 gpm, Option A is the best fit, as all showerheads are close to or below 2.0 gpm, maximizing savings for the credit.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including indoor 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 WaterSense criteria.

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 WaterSense showerhead criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 16

Envelope leakage is minimized by:

- A. Installing a continuous air barrier.
- B. Installing a drainage plane.
- C. Specifying HERS Grade II Insulation.
- D. Conducting a blower door test.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Minimizing envelope leakage is a critical component of improving energy efficiency in homes, as it reduces unintended air infiltration and exfiltration through the building envelope. This concept is addressed in the LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) under the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category, specifically in credits related to Air Infiltration and Building Envelope Performance.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4), the primary method to minimize envelope leakage is to install a continuous air barrier:

EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance

To reduce air infiltration, projects must include a continuous air barrier system that is sealed at all penetrations, joints, and interfaces to prevent air leakage. The air barrier must be installed around the entire building envelope, including walls, roofs, and floors.

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

Additionally, the LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C Rating system reinforces this requirement:

EA Credit: Air Infiltration

Install a continuous air barrier system to control air leakage through the building envelope. The air barrier must be airtight, durable, and continuous, with all seams, penetrations, and transitions sealed.

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

A continuous air barrier is a system of materials (e.g., house wraps, sealed drywall, or spray foam) that forms a complete barrier to air movement, significantly reducing energy losses due to leakage. This is a proactive design and construction strategy to achieve energy efficiency goals.

Why not the other options?

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

Rainwater Management, p. 76, which discusses drainage planes in the context of moisture control.

B). Conducting a blower door test: A blower door test is a diagnostic tool used to measure air leakage in a building, not to minimize it. It quantifies the air tightness of the envelope (in air changes per hour, ACH) but does not physically reduce leakage. It is required for verification in LEED v4 (EA Credit: Air Infiltration) but is not a solution for minimizing leakage. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Air Infiltration, p. 124.

D). Specifying HERS Grade II Insulation: HERS (Home Energy Rating System) insulation grades refer to the quality of insulation installation, with Grade II indicating moderate defects. While proper insulation reduces conductive heat loss, it does not directly address air leakage, which is managed by the air barrier system. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Insulation, p.

120, which discusses HERS insulation grades but not air leakage.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes the importance of understanding EA credits, including air infiltration, for the exam, referencing the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key study resource. The handbook confirms that the exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the continuous air barrier requirement.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112, and EA Credit: Air Infiltration, p. 124.

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 air barrier requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 17

How is credit earned under Regional Priority Credit, Regional Priority when the credit has multiple thresholds?

- A. Points are awarded at particular levels of achievement
- B. Points are awarded when the maximum threshold has been exceeded

- C. Points are awarded at the maximum threshold
- D. Points are awarded at the minimum threshold

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes Regional Priority (RP) Credits, which provide bonus points for achieving existing credits identified as environmentally significant for a project's region. For credits with multiple thresholds, exemplary performance can earn additional points.

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

Regional Priority Credits (1-4 points)

Regional Priority Credits are awarded for achieving designated credits that address location-specific environmental priorities. For credits with multiple thresholds (e.g., Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use), an additional bonus point is awarded when the maximum threshold has been exceeded, demonstrating exemplary performance.

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

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

Regional Priority Credits

When an RP credit has multiple thresholds, a project earns the bonus point by meeting the base credit requirements, and an additional point may be earned for exemplary performance by exceeding the maximum threshold of the underlying credit.

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

The correct answer is points are awarded when the maximum threshold has been exceeded (Option C), as RP credits with multiple thresholds award bonus points for exemplary performance beyond the highest threshold.

Why not the other options?

* A. Points are awarded at the minimum threshold: RP credits require achieving the base credit, not just the minimum threshold.

* B. Points are awarded at the maximum threshold: Points are awarded for exceeding the maximum threshold, not just meeting it.

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

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes RP credits and exemplary performance, referencing the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of exceeding thresholds.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Regional Priority Credits, p. 190; Innovation Credit: Innovation, 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/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming exemplary performance criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 18

What strategy should a team take in order to use tropical wood in their LEED registered project?

- A. No strategy can be used because tropical wood cannot be used in a LEED project
- **B. Use tropical wood that is FSC-certified**
- C. Conduct a life-cycle assessment (LCA) to demonstrate that the materials used in the project comply with the intent of the prerequisite
- D. Use any regional tropical wood that is not FSC-certified

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Materials and Resources (MR) Prerequisite:

Certified Tropical Wood, which regulates the use of tropical wood to prevent unsustainable harvesting from ecologically sensitive regions.

According to the LEED 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). If tropical wood is used, it must be FSC-certified to ensure it is sourced from sustainably managed forests.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Materials and Resources Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

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

MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood

Tropical wood, if used, must be FSC-certified to comply with the prerequisite. This ensures responsible forestry practices in tropical regions.

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

The most effective strategy is to use tropical wood that is FSC-certified (Option A), as this complies with the prerequisite and allows tropical wood in the project while ensuring sustainable sourcing.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

C). Use any regional tropical wood that is not FSC-certified: Non-FSC-certified tropical wood does not comply with the prerequisite, as it risks unsustainable sourcing. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

D). Conduct a life-cycle assessment (LCA) to demonstrate that the materials used in the project comply with the intent of the prerequisite: An LCA is not an acceptable compliance path for this prerequisite, which explicitly requires FSC certification for tropical wood. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Prerequisite: Certified Tropical Wood, p. 156.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes MR prerequisites, including Certified Tropical Wood, 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 certification.

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).

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LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming FSC certification requirement.

NEW QUESTION # 19

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