

USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Test Question, Test LEED-AP-Homes Registration



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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	Indoor Environmental Quality: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Architectural Designer. It addresses indoor air health, natural light, and ventilation requirements to ensure occupant comfort and durability, reflecting a home's capacity to provide a healthy and lasting living environment.
Topic 2	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 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 (Q39-Q44):

NEW QUESTION # 39

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 point
- B. 1.5 points
- C. 0.5 points
- D. 0 points

Answer: A

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 rating 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).

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 fly ash criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 40

The intent of Water Efficiency Credit, Outdoor Water Use, is to minimize which of the following?

- A. Wildlife habitat
- **B. Heat island effect**
- C. Building footprint
- D. Fertilizer use

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Outdoor Water Use, which aims to reduce irrigation water consumption through strategies like native plant selection and efficient irrigation systems. According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use (1-4 points)

The intent is to reduce outdoor water consumption for irrigation, thereby minimizing the environmental impact of water use and indirectly supporting other sustainability goals, such as reducing energy use associated with water delivery. While not directly targeting the heat island effect, efficient irrigation can contribute to cooler landscapes by supporting vegetation, unlike the Sustainable Sites Credit: Heat Island Reduction, which directly addresses heat island mitigation.

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

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

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use

The primary intent is to minimize outdoor water use for irrigation, which can also support vegetated surfaces that mitigate the heat island effect, though this is a secondary benefit.

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

The correct answer is heat island effect (Option C), as reducing outdoor water use supports vegetated landscapes that help mitigate heat island effects, aligning with the credit's broader environmental goals. Note that the primary intent is water reduction, but among the options, heat island effect is the most relevant secondary benefit.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

B). Building footprint: This is relevant to LT Credit: Compact Development, not outdoor water use.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

D). Wildlife habitat: Native plants support habitat (SS Credit: Site Development), but this is not the intent of WE Outdoor Water Use. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 74.

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 water reduction goals.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit:

Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

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 outdoor water use intent.

NEW QUESTION # 41

The first consideration in solar home design is to:

- A. Incorporate thermal mass
- **B. Orient the building**
- C. Size solar shading
- D. Select windows

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) encourages passive solar design strategies in the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) category, particularly in EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance or EA Prerequisite:

Minimum Energy Performance, to maximize energy efficiency through site and building design.

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

EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance

The first step in solar home design is to orient the building to maximize solar exposure for passive heating, daylighting, and potential active solar systems. Proper orientation (e.g., south-facing in the Northern Hemisphere) optimizes energy performance before other strategies like window selection or shading.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit:

Optimize Energy Performance, p. 118.

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

EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance

Building orientation is the primary consideration in solar design, as it determines the effectiveness of passive solar strategies and energy efficiency measures.

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

The first consideration in solar home design is to orient the building (Option D), typically to maximize south-facing exposure (in the Northern Hemisphere) to optimize passive solar heating, daylighting, and solar energy potential.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

B). Size solar shading: Shading is designed after orientation to manage solar gain. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance, p. 118.

C). Incorporate thermal mass: Thermal mass is a secondary strategy to store heat after orientation is optimized. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Optimize Energy Performance, p. 118.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including solar design, 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 building orientation.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Optimize Energy Performance, p. 118.

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 solar design priorities.

NEW QUESTION # 42

What is the minimum number of required hours the project team must meet in order to earn the Integrative Process Credit, Option 2: Design Charrette?

- A. Eight hours
- B. Twelve 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: Design Charrette, which requires a collaborative meeting to integrate green strategies early in the design process.

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

IP Credit: Integrative Process, Option 2: Design Charrette (1 point)

Conduct a design charrette with the project team lasting at least four hours to identify and integrate green strategies across all aspects of the building design, including energy, water, materials, and indoor environmental quality.

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: Design Charrette

The project team must hold a design charrette of at least four hours to collaboratively develop sustainable design strategies.

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 the design charrette 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 the design charrette, 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 charrette duration.

NEW QUESTION # 43

For a project to earn one point for Materials and Resources Credit, Environmentally Preferable Products, what must occur?

- A. Meet both Option 1: Local Production and Option 2: Environmentally Preferable Products
- B. Achieve more than 95% of the component by weight or volume that meets Option 1: Local Production
- **C. Meet more than two or more of the criteria under Option 2: Environmentally Preferable Products**
- D. Achieve more than 95% of the component by weight or volume that meets Option 2: Environmentally Preferable Products

Answer: C

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) outlines the requirements for the Materials and Resources (MR) Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, which encourages the use of sustainable materials. The credit has two options: Option 1: Local Production (materials sourced within 100 miles) and Option 2:

Environmentally Preferable Products (materials with attributes like recycled content, FSC-certified wood, or low emissions).

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

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

Earn points by meeting the following:

* Option 2: Environmentally Preferable Products: Use products that meet one or more of the following criteria for at least 25% (1 point), 50% (2 points), or 90% (3-4 points) by cost of the total materials:

* Recycled content

* FSC-certified wood

* Bio-based materials

* Low-emission products (e.g., low-VOC paints) To earn 1 point, at least 25% of the materials (by cost) must meet two or more of these 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 rating system confirms:

MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products

For 1 point, use products that meet two or more environmentally preferable criteria (e.g., recycled content, FSC-certified) for at least 25% of the total material cost.

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

To earn one point under Option 2, the project must use materials that collectively meet two or more of the environmentally preferable criteria (e.g., a product with both recycled content and low emissions) for at least

25% of the total material cost. This makes Option B the correct answer.

Why not the other options?

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

C). Achieve more than 95% of the component by weight or volume that meets Option 1: Local Production: Option 1 focuses on local production (within 100 miles), not environmentally preferable attributes, and uses cost, not weight or volume. It is a separate compliance path. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

D). Meet both Option 1: Local Production and Option 2: Environmentally Preferable Products: The credit allows projects to pursue either Option 1 or Option 2 independently. Meeting both is not required for one point. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit:

Environmentally Preferable Products, p. 160.

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 Option 2's 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).

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 criteria for one point.

NEW QUESTION # 44

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