



Ameren/US Green Building Council – St. Louis Regional Chapter  
LEED Incentive Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions  
July 7, 2006

**1) Is there a word version of the grant application form available so you can submit an application on line?**

There is a MS Word version of the grant application available here:  
<http://www.earthwayshome.org/usgbc.html>. However, application packages must be submitted by US Mail to:

USGBC-STL  
3617 Grandel Square  
St. Louis, MO 63103

**2) Are large corporations eligible for this grant?**

Grants will be awarded to project owners or developers.

**3) Would an energy efficient lighting retrofit project be eligible for this grant?**

No. Only projects that are LEED registered between June 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006 are eligible.

**4) How much money per project do you anticipate awarding?**

Grants will be awarded to successful applicants as follows:

- § LEED Certified - \$15,000
- § LEED Silver - \$20,000
- § LEED Gold - \$25,000
- § LEED Platinum - \$30,000

\$5,000 of funds will be dispensed to successful applicants within forty-five days of award of grant. The balance of funds, if any, will be dispensed within forty-five days of award of LEED certification. Availability of funds depends on the number of projects receiving Start-Up funding and the completion Funding will be rewarded on a first-come basis.

**5) What are the main costs and benefits involved with becoming LEED certified?**

It is often said that green building costs more than conventional building. This statement can be true if one considers only the upfront costs of building. By using an integrated design process from the very beginning of the project and by factoring in the lifetime costs of owning and operating a building, green building can save money, time and natural resources.

The environmental and financial benefits of LEED certification include:

- § Green Buildings are **energy efficient**, reducing energy consumption by 20 – 50%. This saves money on energy bills and operating costs.
- § Green Buildings improve **indoor environmental quality** (i.e. higher indoor air quality, access to daylight and views, thermal comfort), which is often linked to improved employee health and attitude. This can translate into a decrease in sick building syndrome; a decrease in sick days; improved staff retention and reduced recruiting costs.
- § Green Buildings can have **reduced maintenance costs**.
- § Green Buildings have the **ability to obtain higher rents and higher occupancy rates** in leased spaces.

U.S. Green Building Council  
St. Louis Regional Chapter

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- § Green buildings provide a positive public image, as well as **marketing opportunities and advantages** for adapters and green building owners.
- § Green Buildings have a **positive social impact** providing benefits to all employees regardless of socioeconomic levels.

The cost of LEED registration and certification varies from building to building. Visit the USGBC website for more information: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=65&>. Additional costs directly related to LEED certification may include daylighting simulation, additional energy analysis and commissioning.

Please consult the following studies for more information about the costs and benefits of LEED:

*Green Building Costs & Financial Benefits*, Gregory Kats

<http://www.cap-e.com/ewebeditpro/items/O59F3481.pdf>

*Examining the Cost of Green*, Davis Langdon

<http://www.davislangdon.com/pdf/USA/2004ExaminingCostGreen.pdf>

*Making the Business Case for High Performance Green Building*

[http://www.wgba.org/artman/uploads/making\\_the\\_business\\_case-cd.pdf](http://www.wgba.org/artman/uploads/making_the_business_case-cd.pdf)

#### **6) Is there any other information or sources you believe would be helpful?**

Please refer to the following websites for more information about green building:

U.S. Green Building Council – [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

Building Green – [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com)

Greener Buildings e-newsletter - [www.greenerbuildings.com](http://www.greenerbuildings.com)

Sustainable Sources: [www.greenbuilder.com](http://www.greenbuilder.com)

#### **7) We just completed an energy audit at our school. Can we use funds to pay for the audit?**

If an energy audit is part of a project's LEED certification, then it may be possible to use funds to pay for an energy audit.

#### **8) Are grant funds to be used for energy retrofit, or hiring a USGBC architect, or is either OK?**

Grant funds can be used for the “soft” costs associated with LEED projects, such as the LEED Certification fee; LEED documentation costs; building commissioning; professional services such as daylighting analysis, energy modeling and life cycle analysis; and building design charrettes led by a LEED Accredited Professional.

Grant funds may not be specifically used for an energy retrofit or to pay an architect for designing a building, systems, retrofit or renovation.

Please see the document on LEED Incentive Grant Program Eligibility here:

<http://www.earthwayscenter.org/publications/USGBC-STL-LEED-IncentiveGrantElig2.pdf>.

#### **9) What is LEED Registration?**

LEED registration is the first step towards earning LEED certification for a building project and provides access to LEED online.

For more on registering a project, go to:

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=65&>.

#### **10) Are projects in Illinois eligible for the grant if they are within the US Green Building Council – St. Louis Regional Chapter territory?**

No. Projects in Illinois are not eligible because they are not within the AmerenUE service area

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