

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: APPLYING LEED TO MEET POLICY GOALS



Government at all levels has a responsibility to use taxpayer dollars both wisely and transparently. Through the use of the LEED® green building certification program, public buildings can save money, ensure accountability, incentivize local investment, and create jobs while committing our civic structures to healthy, responsible and efficient practices.

LEED SAVES TAXPAYERS MONEY

Just as in the private sector, new and upgraded public buildings certified to LEED can save money by using less energy and water and by creating an environment for more productive occupants. Governments across the nation are committing public buildings to LEED because they are getting results.

For example, the Twin Cities Police Headquarters in Larkspur, Calif. (pictured) earned LEED Platinum in 2012. To mitigate energy use, the building features on-site power generation through photovoltaic roof panels, which, combined with other energy efficient strategies, allow the building to use 47 percent less purchased energy than a typical building of the same type. The building also uses 38 percent less water. This is just one LEED-certified state/local public project of nearly 3,000 as of 2015, multiplying taxpayer savings while also creating jobs and reducing environmental impacts.



Credit: Siegel Photographic

LEED PROMOTES ACCOUNTABILITY

For better buildings, accountability makes a difference. Through a carefully managed, independent, third-party verification system, LEED affirms the integrity of green building commitments by ensuring project teams are delivering on design plans and goals. Third-party validation helps guarantee that each project saves energy, water and other resources, reducing the overall environmental impact. No cutting corners. Taxpayers deserve to know they're getting a strong return on their investment.

STATES LEADING THE WAY WITH LEED

<i>State</i>	<i># of State and Local LEED-certified buildings</i>
California	1,141
Florida	455
Texas	361
New York	330
Washington	263
Virginia	261
Illinois	242

*Project statistics as of November 2015

BUILDINGS DEFINE OUR COMMUNITIES

Our buildings are at the heart of our communities. From our town halls to courthouses, from capitol domes to train stations, buildings help define the places we live and work.

When governments commit to build green – and especially to LEED – it is a statement of leadership and pride. Green public buildings demonstrate a commitment to a safer, stronger and more comfortable today, without compromising a brighter, healthier and more prosperous tomorrow.

LEED SUPPORTS JOBS AND A WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE

Green construction contributed significantly to the national GDP with a net direct [economic impact](#) of \$60.7 billion and an indirect impact of \$68.9 billion in 2015. It is expected to grow to \$85.4 billion and \$98.3 billion respectively by 2018. This means that the green construction market's impact on GDP is projected to increase by 41% from 2015 to 2018. It is estimated that, in 2015, green construction will directly contribute 796,000 jobs to the U.S. economy while \$53.6 billion of all wages will be directly accounted for by the green construction industry. By 2018, these numbers are predicted to increase to 1.1 million and \$75.6 billion.

A Harvard Business School [study](#) found that public investment in LEED-certified government buildings stimulates private investment, supply, and market uptake of greener building practice. The research finds that green public building commitments produce a near doubling effect in private investment across the building sector and up and down the supply chain of products, professionals and services – not to mention the energy and water savings. Neighboring communities experience a 60% increase in the same, all of which is encouraged by government leadership by example.