

# Index of Definitions



Term .....	Page #
<b>Age of Air</b> .....	248, 258
The average amount of time that has elapsed since a sample of air molecules at a specific location has entered the building.	
<b>Air-Change Effectiveness</b> .....	248, 258
A measurement based on a comparison of the age of air in the occupied portions of the building to the age of air that would exist under conditions of perfect mixing of the ventilation air.	
<b>Albedo</b> .....	66
Synonymous with solar reflectance (see page 327).	
<b>Alternative Fuel Vehicles</b> .....	40
Vehicles that use low-polluting, non-gasoline fuels such as electricity, hydrogen, propane or compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, methanol, and ethanol. Efficient gas-electric hybrid vehicles are included in this group for LEED purposes.	
<b>Aquatic Systems</b> .....	98
Ecologically designed treatment systems that utilize a diverse community of biological organisms (e.g., bacteria, plants and fish) to treat wastewater to advanced levels.	
<b>Bioremediation</b> .....	28
Involves the use of microorganisms and vegetation to remove contaminants from water and soils. Bioremediation is generally a form of in-situ remediation, and can be a viable alternative to landfilling or incineration.	
<b>Blackwater</b> .....	89
Wastewater from toilets and kitchen sinks that contains organic materials.	
<b>Building Footprint</b> .....	47
The area on a project site that is used by the building structure and is defined by the perimeter of the building plan. Parking lots, landscapes and other non-building facilities are not included in the building footprint.	
<b>Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)</b> .....	252
An indicator of ventilation effectiveness inside buildings. CO <sub>2</sub> concentrations greater than 540 ppm above outdoor CO <sub>2</sub> conditions are generally considered to be an indicator of inadequate ventilation. Absolute concentrations of CO <sub>2</sub> greater than 800-1,000 ppm are generally considered to be an indicator of poor breathing air quality.	
<b>Carpool</b> .....	40
An arrangement in which two or more people share a vehicle for transportation.	

<b>CERCLA</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Refers to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund. CERCLA addresses abandoned or historical waste sites and contamination. It was enacted in 1980 to create a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided federal authority to respond to releases of hazardous substances.	
<b>Chain-of-Custody</b> .....	<b>211</b>
A tracking procedure to document the status of a product from the point of harvest or extraction to the ultimate consumer end use.	
<b>Chain-of-Custody</b> .....	<b>236</b>
A document that tracks the movement of a wood product from the forest to a vendor and is used to verify compliance with FSC guidelines. A "vendor" is defined as the company that supplies wood products to project contractors or subcontractors for on-site installation.	
<b>Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)</b> .....	<b>132, 172</b>
Hydrocarbons that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer.	
<b>Community</b> .....	<b>16</b>
An interacting population of individuals living in a specific area.	
<b>Composting Toilet</b> .....	<b>107</b>
A dry plumbing fixture that contains and treats human waste via microbiological processes.	
<b>Conditioned Space</b> .....	<b>258</b>
The portion of the building that is heated or cooled, or both, for the comfort of building occupants.	
<b>Constructed Wetland</b> .....	<b>57</b>
An engineered system designed to simulate natural wetland functions for water purification. Constructed wetlands are essentially treatment systems that remove contaminants from wastewaters.	
<b>Construction, Demolition and Land Clearing (CDL) Debris</b> .....	<b>205</b>
Includes waste and recyclables generated from construction, land clearing (e.g., vegetation, but not soil), renovation, and demolition or deconstruction of pre-existing structures.	
<b>Construction IAQ Management Plan</b> .....	<b>266</b>
A document specific to a building project that outlines measures to minimize contamination in the building during construction and to flush the building of contaminants prior to occupancy.	
<b>Curfew Hours</b> .....	<b>76</b>
Locally determined times when greater lighting restrictions are imposed.	
<b>Cutoff Angle</b> .....	<b>76</b>
The angle between the vertical axis of a luminaire and the first line of sight (of a luminaire) at which the light source is no longer visible.	
<b>Daylight Factor</b> .....	<b>309</b>
The ratio of interior illuminance at a given point on a given plane (usually the workplane) to the exterior illuminance under known overcast sky conditions. LEED uses a simplified approach for its credit compliance calculations.	

<b>Daylighting</b> .....	<b>309</b>
The controlled admission of natural light into a space through glazing with the intent of reducing or eliminating electric lighting. By utilizing solar light, daylighting creates a stimulating and productive environment for building occupants.	
<b>Development Footprint</b> .....	<b>16, 47</b>
The area on the project site that has been impacted by any development activity. Hardscape, access roads, parking lots, non-building facilities and building structure are all included in the development footprint.	
<b>Drip Irrigation</b> .....	<b>89</b>
A high-efficiency irrigation method in which water drips to the soil from perforated tubes or emitters.	
<b>Ecosystem</b> .....	<b>16</b>
A basic unit of nature that includes a community of organisms and their nonliving environment linked by biological, chemical, and physical process.	
<b>Endangered Species</b> .....	<b>16</b>
An animal or plant species that is in danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its range due to harmful human activities or environmental factors.	
<b>Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs)</b> .....	<b>179</b>
Installations of equipment or systems, or modifications of equipment or systems, for the purpose of reducing energy use and/or costs.	
<b>Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)</b> .....	<b>248</b>
Also known as secondhand smoke, consists of airborne particles emitted from the burning end of cigarettes, pipes, and cigars, and exhaled by smokers. These particles contain about 4,000 different compounds, up to 40 of which are known to cause cancer.	
<b>Erosion</b> .....	<b>11</b>
A combination of processes in which materials of the earth's surface are loosened, dissolved or worn away, and transported from one place to another by natural agents.	
<b>Evapotranspiration</b> .....	<b>89</b>
The loss of water by evaporation from the soil and transpiration from plants.	
<b>Ex-Situ Remediation</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Involves the removal of contaminated soil and groundwater. Treatment of the contaminated media occurs in another location, typically a treatment facility. A traditional method of ex-situ remediation is pump-and-treat technology that uses carbon filters and incineration. More advanced methods of ex-situ remediation include chemical treatment or biological reactors.	
<b>Fixture Sensors</b> .....	<b>107</b>
Applied to lavatories, sinks, water closets and urinals to sense fixture use and automatically turn on and off.	

- Footcandle (fc)** ..... 77  
 A measure of light falling on a given surface. One footcandle is equal to the quantity of light falling on a one-square-foot area from a one candela light source at a distance of one foot. Footcandles can be measured both horizontally and vertically by a footcandle or "light meter."
- Formaldehyde** ..... 278  
 A naturally occurring VOC, is found in small amounts in animals and plants, but is carcinogenic and an irritant to most people when present in high concentrations—causing headaches, dizziness, mental impairment, and other symptoms. When present in the air at levels above 0.1 ppm (parts per million parts of air), it can cause watery eyes, burning sensations in the eyes, nose, and throat; nausea; coughing; chest tightness; wheezing; skin rashes; and asthmatic and allergic reactions. Urea formaldehyde is a combination of urea and formaldehyde that is used in some glues and readily decomposes at room temperature. Phenol formaldehyde, which off-gasses only at high temperature, is used for exterior products, although many of those products are suitable for interior applications.
- Full Cutoff Luminaire** ..... 77  
 Has zero candela intensity at an angle of 90 degrees above the vertical axis (nadir) and at all angles greater than 90 degrees from nadir. Additionally, the candela per 1000 lamp lumens does not numerically exceed 100 (10 %) at an angle of 80 degrees above nadir. This applies to all lateral angles around the luminaire.
- Glare** ..... 77  
 The sensation produced by luminance within the visual field that is significantly greater than the luminance to which the eyes are adapted, which causes annoyance, discomfort or loss in visual performance and visibility
- Graywater** ..... 89  
 Wastewater from lavatories, showers, bathtubs, washing machines and sinks that are not used for disposal of hazardous or toxic ingredients or wastes from food preparation.
- Greenfield** ..... 24, 47  
 Undeveloped land or land that has not been impacted by human activity.
- Group Multi-Occupant Spaces** ..... 291  
 Include conference rooms, classrooms and other indoor spaces used as a place of congregation for presentations, trainings, etc. Individuals using these spaces share the lighting and temperature controls.
- Halons** ..... 172  
 Substances used in fire suppression systems and fire extinguishers in buildings. These substances deplete the stratospheric ozone layer.
- Heat Island Effects** ..... 66  
 Occur when warmer temperatures are experienced in urban landscapes compared to adjacent rural areas as a result of solar energy retention on constructed surfaces. Principal surfaces that contribute to the heat island effect include streets, sidewalks, parking lots and buildings.

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<b>HVAC Systems</b> .....	<b>266</b>
Include heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems used to provide thermal comfort and ventilation for building interiors.	
<b>Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)</b> .....	<b>132</b>
Refrigerants that cause significantly less depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer compared to CFCs.	
<b>Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)</b> .....	<b>172</b>
Refrigerants used in building equipment that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, but to a lesser extent than CFCs.	
<b>Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)</b> .....	<b>172</b>
Refrigerants that do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. However, some HFCs have high global warming potential and, thus, are not environmentally benign.	
<b>Illuminance</b> .....	<b>77</b>
The amount of light falling on a surface, measured in units of footcandles (fc) or lux (lx).	
<b>Impervious Surfaces</b> .....	<b>57</b>
Promote runoff of precipitation volumes instead of infiltration into the sub-surface. The imperviousness or degree of runoff potential can be estimated for different surface materials.	
<b>Individual Multi-Occupant Space</b> .....	<b>291</b>
Typically an open office plan. These spaces normally contain standard workstations where each individual must have comfort controls to earn Credit 6.2.	
<b>Indoor Air Quality</b> .....	<b>244</b>
The nature of air that affects the health and well-being of building occupants.	
<b>Infrared Emittance</b> .....	<b>66</b>
Refers to thermal emittance (see page 327).	
<b>In-Situ Remediation</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Involves treatment of contaminants in place using technologies such as injection wells or reactive trenches. These methods utilize the natural hydraulic gradient of groundwater and usually require only minimal disturbance of the site.	
<b>Landfill</b> .....	<b>190</b>
A waste disposal site for the deposit of solid waste from human activities.	
<b>Light Pollution</b> .....	<b>77</b>
Caused by stray light from unshielded light sources and light reflecting off surfaces that enters the atmosphere where it illuminates and reflects off dust, debris and water vapor to cause an effect known as "sky glow." Light pollution can substantially limit visual access to the night sky, compromise astronomical research, and adversely affect nocturnal environments. Stray light that enters the atmosphere does not increase nighttime safety or security and needlessly consumes energy and natural resources.	

<b>Light Trespass</b> .....	77
Commonly thought of as "the light shining in my window." It is defined as obtrusive light that is unwanted, because of quantitative, directional or spectral attributes. Light trespass causes annoyance, discomfort, distraction or a loss of visibility	
<b>Local Zoning Requirements</b> .....	47
Local government regulations imposed to promote orderly development of private lands and to prevent land use conflicts.	
<b>Luminance</b> .....	77
What we commonly call brightness or the light coming from a surface or light source. Luminance is composed of the intensity of light striking an object or surface and the amount of that light reflected back toward the eye. Luminance is measured in footlamberts (fl) or candela per square meter (cd/m <sup>2</sup> ).	
<b>Mass Transit</b> .....	40
Includes transportation facilities designed to transport large groups of persons in a single vehicle such as buses or trains.	
<b>Native/Adapted Plants</b> .....	47
Those that are indigenous to a locality or have adapted to the local climate and are not invasive. Such plants do not require irrigation or fertilization once root systems are established in the soil.	
<b>Natural Ventilation</b> .....	258
The process of supplying and removing air without mechanical ductwork in building spaces by using openings such as windows and doors, non-powered ventilators, and infiltration processes.	
<b>Natural Ventilation</b> .....	300
Provides acceptable air-change effectiveness and thermal comfort without the use of mechanical heating and cooling equipment. The natural effect of wind, stack effect and interior/exterior temperature differentials induce air circulation and replacement. Airflow is fan-assisted only when necessary.	
<b>Non-Occupied Spaces</b> .....	291
Include all rooms used by maintenance personnel and not open for use by occupants. Included are janitorial, storage and equipment rooms, and closets.	
<b>Non-Regularly Occupied Spaces</b> .....	291
Include corridors, hallways, lobbies, break rooms, copy rooms, storage rooms, kitchens, restrooms, stairwells, etc.	
<b>Occupied Zone</b> .....	300
The region in an occupied space from 3 inches above the floor to 72 inches above the floor and greater than 2 feet from walls or fixed air conditioning equipment.	
<b>On-Site Wastewater Treatment</b> .....	98
Uses localized treatment systems to transport, store, treat and dispose of wastewater volumes generated on the project site.	
<b>Open-Grid Pavement</b> .....	67
Defined for LEED purposes as pavement that is less than 50% impervious.	



<b>Open Space Area</b> .....	<b>47</b>
The property area minus the development footprint. Open space must be vegetated and pervious, thus providing habitat and other ecological services.	
<b>Post-Consumer Recycled Content</b> .....	<b>220</b>
Consumer waste that has become a raw material (feedstock) for another product. It originates from products that have served a useful purpose in the consumer market. Much of this feedstock comes from residential and commercial (office) recycling programs for aluminum, glass, plastic and paper. Other post-consumer feedstock is supplied by businesses that recycle construction and demolition debris.	
<b>Post-Industrial Recycled Content</b> .....	<b>220</b>
Output from a process that has not been used as part of a consumer product, that is sold, traded, or exchanged under commercial terms (including auditable transactions between profit centers within an organization) as feedstock for another industrial process, and that would otherwise be landfilled, incinerated or somehow disposed of as a waste, as defined by the Federal Trade Commission. For instance, a composite board manufacturer may purchase (or haul away for free) sawdust from a lumber mill or waste straw from a wheat farm. Wood chips would not fit this definition.	
<b>Potable Water</b> .....	<b>89</b>
Water that is suitable for drinking and is supplied from wells or municipal water systems.	
<b>Potable Water</b> .....	<b>98</b>
Water that meets drinking water quality standards and is approved for human consumption by the state or local authorities having jurisdiction.	
<b>Property Area</b> .....	<b>24</b>
The legal property boundary of a project and includes all areas of the site including constructed areas and non-constructed areas.	
<b>Public Transportation</b> .....	<b>40</b>
Bus, rail or other transportation service for the general public on a regular, continual basis that is publicly or privately owned.	
<b>RCRA</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Refers to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. RCRA focuses on active and future facilities. It was enacted in 1976 to give the EPA authority to control hazardous wastes from cradle to grave, including generation, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal. Some non-hazardous wastes are also covered under RCRA.	
<b>Recycling</b> .....	<b>190, 205</b>
The collection, reprocessing, marketing and use of materials that were diverted or recovered from the solid waste stream.	
<b>Refrigerants</b> .....	<b>132</b>
The working fluids of refrigeration cycles. They absorb heat from a reservoir at low temperatures and reject heat at higher temperatures.	
<b>Regularly Occupied Spaces</b> .....	<b>291</b>
Areas where workers are seated or standing as they work inside a building.	



<b>Relative Humidity</b> .....	<b>300</b>
The ratio of partial density of water vapor in the air to the saturation density of water vapor at the same temperature.	
<b>Remediation</b> .....	<b>29</b>
The process of cleaning up a contaminated site by physical, chemical or biological means. Remediation processes are typically applied to contaminated soil and groundwater.	
<b>Return Air</b> .....	<b>252</b>
Air removed from conditioned spaces that is either recirculated in the building or exhausted to the outside.	
<b>Reuse</b> .....	<b>205</b>
A strategy to return materials to active use in the same or a related capacity.	
<b>Risk Assessment</b> .....	<b>29</b>
A methodology used to analyze for potential health effects caused by contaminants in the environment. Information from the risk assessment is used to determine cleanup levels.	
<b>Salvaged Materials</b> .....	<b>211</b>
Construction materials recovered from existing buildings or construction sites and reused in other buildings. Common salvaged materials include structural beams and posts, flooring, doors, cabinetry, brick and decorative items. See the Synergies section for more LEED-related details.	
<b>Sedimentation</b> .....	<b>11</b>
The addition of soils to water bodies by natural and human-related activities. Sedimentation decreases water quality and accelerates the aging process of lakes, rivers and streams.	
<b>Shielding</b> .....	<b>77</b>
A non-technical term that describes devices or techniques that are used as part of a luminaire or lamp to limit glare, light trespass and light pollution.	
<b>Sick Building Syndrome</b> .....	<b>244</b>
A situation in which a substantial proportion of building occupants experience acute discomfort and negative health effects as a result of exposure to contaminated air in the building.	
<b>Site Area</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Defined the same as property area.	
<b>Site Assessment</b> .....	<b>29</b>
An evaluation of above-ground (including facilities) and subsurface characteristics, including the geology and hydrology of the site, to determine if a release has occurred, as well as the extent and concentration of the release. Information generated during a site assessment is used to support remedial action decisions.	

<b>Solar Reflectance (albedo)</b> .....	<b>67</b>
The ratio of the reflected solar energy to the incoming solar energy over wavelengths of approximately 0.3 to 2.5 micrometers. A reflectance of 100% means that all of the energy striking a reflecting surface is reflected back into the atmosphere and none of the energy is absorbed by the surface. The best standard technique for its determination uses spectro-photometric measurements with an integrating sphere to determine the reflectance at each different wavelength. An averaging process using a standard solar spectrum then determines the average reflectance (see ASTM Standard E903).	
<b>Square Footage</b> (of a building).....	<b>24</b>
The total area in square feet of all rooms including corridors, elevators, stairwells and shaft spaces.	
<b>Stormwater Runoff</b> .....	<b>57</b>
Consists of water volumes that are created during precipitation events and flow over surfaces into sewer systems or receiving waters. All precipitation waters that leave project site boundaries on the surface are considered to be stormwater runoff volumes.	
<b>Supply Air</b> .....	<b>252</b>
Air delivered to conditioned spaces for use in ventilating, heating, cooling, humidifying, and dehumidifying those spaces.	
<b>Sustainable Forestry</b> .....	<b>236</b>
The practice of managing forest resources to meet the long-term forest product needs of humans while maintaining the biodiversity of forested landscapes. The primary goal is to restore, enhance and sustain a full range of forest values—economic, social and ecological.	
<b>Tertiary Treatment</b> .....	<b>98</b>
The highest form of wastewater treatment and includes removal of organics, solids and nutrients as well as biological or chemical polishing, generally to effluent limits of 10 mg/L BOD <sub>5</sub> and 10 mg/L TSS.	
<b>Thermal Comfort</b> .....	<b>300</b>
A condition of mind experienced by building occupants expressing satisfaction with the thermal environment.	
<b>Thermal Emittance</b> .....	<b>66</b>
A parameter between 0 and 1 (or 0% and 100%) that indicates the ability of a material to shed infrared radiation (heat). The wavelength range for this radiant energy is roughly 3 to 40 micrometers. Most building materials (including glass) are opaque in this part of the spectrum, and have an emittance of roughly 0.9. Materials such as clean, bare metals are the most important exceptions to the 0.9 rule. Thus clean, untarnished galvanized steel has low emittance, and aluminum roof coatings have intermediate emittance levels.	
<b>Threatened Species</b> .....	<b>16</b>
An animal or plant species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.	
<b>Tipping Fees</b> .....	<b>205</b>
Fees charged by a landfill for disposal of waste volumes. The fee is typically quoted for one ton of waste.	

<b>Total Phosphorous (TP)</b> .....	57
Consists of organically bound phosphates, poly-phosphates and orthophosphates in stormwater, the majority of which originates from fertilizer application. Chemical precipitation is the typical removal mechanism for phosphorous.	
<b>Total Suspended Solids (TSS)</b> .....	57
Particles or flocs that are too small or light to be removed from stormwater via gravity settling. Suspended solid concentrations are typically removed via filtration.	
<b>Tracer Gas</b> .....	258
A gas that can be mixed with building air in small amounts to study airflow patterns and measure the age of air and air-change rates.	
<b>Underground Parking</b> .....	67
A "tuck-under" or stacked parking structure that reduces the exposed parking surface area.	
<b>Ventilation</b> .....	244
The process of supplying and removing air to and from interior spaces by natural or mechanical means.	
<b>Ventilation</b> .....	258
The process of supplying and removing air by natural or mechanical means in building spaces.	
<b>Ventilation Effectiveness</b> .....	258
Refers to the movement of the supply air (that contains fresh outdoor air) through the occupied space.	
<b>Visible Transmittance (<math>T_{vis}</math>)</b> .....	309
The ratio of total transmitted light to total incident light. In other words, it is the amount of light passing through a glazing surface divided by the amount of light striking the glazing surface. A higher $T_{vis}$ value indicates that a greater amount of incident light is passing through the glazing.	
<b>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)</b> .....	278
Carbon compounds that participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions (excluding carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, carbonic acid, metallic carbides and carbonates, and ammonium carbonate). The compounds vaporize (become a gas) at normal room temperatures.	
<b>Waterless Urinal</b> .....	107
A dry plumbing fixture that uses advanced hydraulic design and a buoyant fluid instead of water to maintain sanitary conditions.	
<b>Wetland Vegetation</b> .....	17
Consists of plants that require saturated soils to survive as well as certain tree and other plant species that can tolerate prolonged wet soil conditions.	
<b>Xeriscape</b> .....	89
Also known as "dry landscape" designs. Adopt water conservation as the primary objective. Xeriscape landscapes are based on sound horticultural practices and incorporate native plant species that are adapted to local climate conditions.	