

## **LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4)**

*By Gang Chen*

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**Pass the LEED AP BD&C Exam, Get Your Building LEED Certified, Fight Global Warming and Save Money!**

The USGBC released LEED v4 in GreenBuild International Conference and Expo in November, 2013. The GBCI started to include the new LEED v4 content for all LEED exams in late Spring 2014. We have incorporated the new LEED v4 content in this book.


Starting on December 1, 2011, GBCI began to draw LEED AP BD+C Exam questions from *Green Building and LEED Core Concepts Guide*. We have also incorporated this latest information in our books.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is one of the most important trends in development and is revolutionizing the construction industry. It has gained tremendous momentum and has a profound impact on our environment. From this book, you will learn how to:

1. Pass the LEED AP BD+C Exam.
2. Register and achieve LEED certification for a building.
3. Understand the intent of each LEED prerequisite and credit.
4. Calculate points for LEED credits.
5. Identify the credit path, submittal requirements, synergies, possible strategies and technologies, project phase, LEED submittal phase, and responsible party for each prerequisite and credit.
6. Earn extra credit (exemplary performance) for LEED.
7. Implement the related codes and standards.
8. Obtain points for categories not yet clearly defined by the USGBC.

Most of the existing books on LEED and the LEED exams are too expensive and complicated to be practical or helpful. This guide fills in the blanks and demystifies LEED. It uncovers the secrets, codes, and jargon for LEED as well as the true meaning of "going green." It provides a solid foundation and fundamental framework for LEED. It covers every major aspect of LEED in plain and concise language, and introduces it to ordinary people.

This guide is easy to carry around. You can read it whenever you have a few extra minutes. It is an indispensable book for ordinary people, developers, brokers, contractors, administrators, architects, landscape architects, engineers, interns, drafters, designers, and other design professionals.

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- Sales Rank: #189035 in Books
- Published on: 2015-06-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .75" w x 8.50" l, 1.70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 330 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Author

**What others are saying about *LEED BD&C Exam Guide* ...**

### **"Passed on first try, only used this guide**

"This is the best study guide HANDS DOWN. If you're serious about passing the LEED AP BD&C exam on your first try, this is the one you've been looking for! I bought Mr. Chen's *LEED Green Associate Exam Guide* 2 months ago and passed it on the first try as well. I purchased the USGBC reference guide and Mr. Chen's *LEED BD&C Exam Guide*. I never opened the USGBC reference guide, only studied from Mr. Chen's study guide. I followed Mr. Chen's instructions and studied the guide for 2 weeks (yes, I have a full-time job). I did ignore the mnemonics, not my learning style (makes it more confusing to me). The exam was not easy, but I prepared and stuck to this material. I am not a good test taker by no means. I reviewed the technical data of the guide about 6 times and ignored everything else I had read or heard about the exam. Here's a piece of advice that I picked up from this book, spend less time on practice tests and more time studying! I have a subscription to a web exam simulator (rated the best) and only did about 100 questions, until I realized that I was wasting my valuable time. Find a good book and stick to it. This is also a great reference guide to use on everyday projects. Review the material, try to understand it, then try to memorize it through repetition. I would like to shake your hand and say THANKS AGAIN MR. GANG CHEN !!! "

**--LOBO**

### **"Excellent Guide and Good Manual**

"I passed the LEED AP BD+C and the LEED AP ID+C exams this year and Gang Chen's books were my primary study material! The books are easy to read and use. Gang Chen provides study hints and guidance as well as an outline format that makes it easy for the reader to grasp key points. He also provides an excellent review of the entire accreditation process which can save people time in personal research. The books are more than study guides; they are helpful as reference manuals because of the easy to follow format. Definitely a keeper in my bookshelf for future project reference."

**--Karen M. Scott**

### **"Great resource for studying for the LEED Exam!**

"I have taken and passed the LEED AP BD+C exam and know what it takes. As this author says, it's not an easy exam and he is right. What is critical to passing is having great teaching tools and this book is one of them. He touches on every aspect of how to memorize data, how questions are formed, what to expect on tricky questions, the content the test writers are looking for and every little detail you need to know when preparing for this exam. I highly recommend this author's books if you are serious about passing any of the LEED exams, hopefully on the first try!"

**--S. Jennifer Sakiewicz**

### **"LEED BD & C Exam Study Guide**

"Gang Chan's study guide is an excellent resource in preparing to take the LEED AP BD+C exam particularly if one follows the study recommendation made in the guide. It does not replace the LEED Reference manual as the definitive source for technical information but more importantly provides a structure for the study of the information that is easily understood and when followed should provide good assurance of success in passing the exam the 1st time. This is a 'keeper'!"

**--Spock**

**"Good summary of information to memorize for the test**

"Chen's exam guide is a good summary of the test relevant information in the LEED reference guide. He underlines specific information that is important to commit to memory for the test. It is a good way to understand which information needs to be strictly memorized if you are preparing for the test in a short amount of time and have a good understanding of the LEED process through your professional experience. I passed the test with a very high score on my first try, and I did use this guide, one other, the LEED reference manual, online sources, a class, and many years of personally working on and completing online LEED submittals through my work. The week before taking the test I used it to commit point values and those kind of details to memory... "

**--Denver**

**"Not a bulky ref guide**

"*LEED BD&C Exam Guide* does a great job in highlighting and summarizing the key points and concepts in USGBC ref guide. If you only have limited amount of time for LEED AP BD+C exam preparation, definitely go for this book."

**--Metcalf**

**"Very valuable guide!**

"I am a lighting designer and am preparing to take the LEED BD+C exam...I got *LEED BD&C Exam Guide* to prepare for the LEED AP BD+C Exam and it was fairly well organized to help me refresh my memory on the background LEED knowledge I had. All the specifics that one needs to know about each credit such as the Purpose of the credit, Credit path, Submittals, Strategies and technologies etc, are clearly organized for every credit. In addition the author also employs the smart technique of Mnemonics which helps in memorizing the vast amount of information in a simplified manner."

**--Visswapriya Prabakar**

**"Immensely valuable and utterly to the point, a true must have!**

"This is an excellent publication by Gang Chen that outlines precisely all the key points one need for success. I personally appreciate the easy to adopt memorization technique offered by the author. Practice exams are very comprehensive yet summarized and not to mention highly effective learning tool as it is designed in this book. It is a very delightful experience for me to have this outstanding publication. In a word, this definitely worth the money and for me it turns out extraordinarily helpful."

**--Shanaz, who passed LEED AP BD+C Exam on the first try**

**"Very Helpful!**

"I found *LEED BD&C Exam Guide* to be very detailed and very helpful. I plan to take the exam soon, and I feel fully prepared for it."

**-- Yousuf Asadzoi**

**"Good book!**

"I had appeared for GA and passed. I loved the content and the underlined highlights. I read your book; it gave me insight and knowledge on how credits are applied. Some questions in your book helped me answer ones on the test. Good book, I'll go through it once again when I appear for AP."

**--Haresh Vibhakar, AIIA (India), AIA, LEED Green Associate, Architect**

**"A good outline**

"The book is an excellent outline to learn the necessary items required to study for the exam. It is not a

comprehensive study guide in and of itself. Practice exam is good indicator of test preparation."

--Paul Levine

### "Solid LEED Study Guide

"This is the kind of book I wish was available when I did my original LEED AP exam. It teaches you how to study, which is so important when school is a distant memory. The bulk of the book helps you review and memorize with mnemonics the concepts for each credit that you need to know for the exam. The questions are good representations of questions on the exam. I would recommend to anyone studying for their exam, that they:

- First read the chapters in this book on how to study;
- Second read the actual LEED BD+C guide to give you the background information on the credits and gain comprehension. Underline and review as the author indicates to get the most out of your study time.
- Finally read the rest of this exam guide to help you review and memorize for the exam."

--missfitz "missfitz"

### "Very Helpful Guide

"Gang Chen's *LEED BD&C Exam Guides* very helpful in consolidating information from USGBC and GBCI sources as well as providing the information that is necessary for the exam without excess irrelevant information. I highly recommend this book for preparation for the LEED BD+C exams."

--leedap

From the Inside Flap

### Latest trend for LEED Exams

Recently, there are quite a few readers run into the versions of the LEED exams that have many questions on refrigerants (CFC, HCFC, and HFC), the following advice will help you answer these questions correctly:

For more information, see free pdf file of "The Treatment by LEED of the Environmental Impact of HVAC Refrigerants" that you can download at link below:

[gbci.org/Files/References/The-Treatment-by-LEED-of-the-Environmental-Impact-of-HVAC-Refrigerants.pdf](http://gbci.org/Files/References/The-Treatment-by-LEED-of-the-Environmental-Impact-of-HVAC-Refrigerants.pdf)

This is a VERY important document that you need to become familiar with. Many real LEED exam questions (CFC, HCFC, and HFC, etc.) come from this document. You need to download it for free and read it at least 3 times.

Pay special attention to the Table on ODP and GWP on page 3. You do not have to remember the exact value of all ODPs and GWPs, but you do need to know the rough number for various groups of refrigerants."

This latest trend regarding refrigerants (CFC, HCFC, and HFC) for LEED Exams has a lot to do with LEED v4 Credit Weighting. EA (including refrigerants) is a big winner in LEED v4, meaning the category has MORE questions than any other areas for ALL the LEED exams. See portion of my book, *LEED GA Exam Guide* quoted below:

### How are LEED credits allocated and weighted?

**Answer:** Credits that can contribute to LEED's "Impact Categories" are given more points. These impact categories are weighted through a consensus driven process:

- Global **Climate Change** (35%)

- Social Equity, Environmental Justice, and **Community** Quality of Life (5%)
- Individual **Human Health** and well-being (20%)
- **Greener Economy** (5%)
- **Biodiversity** and Ecosystem (10%)
- **Water Resources** (15%)
- Sustainable and Regenerative **Material Resources** Cycles (10%)

The USGBC uses three **association factors** to measure and scale credit outcome to a given Impact Category component:

- **Relative Efficacy:** It measures whether a credit outcome has a positive or negative association with a given Impact Category component, and how strong that association is.

- § No association

- § Low association

- § Medium association

- § High association

- § Negative association

- **Benefit Duration:** How long will the benefits or consequences of the credit outcome last?

- § 1-3 Years

- § 4-10 Years

- § 11-30 Years

- § 30+ Years (Building/Community Lifetime)

- **Controllability of Effect:** It indicates which individual is most directly responsible for achieving the expected credit outcome. The more a credit outcome depends on active human effort, the less likely it will be achieved with certainty, and the credit will have fewer points, vice versa.

The USGBC simplifies the weighting process of points into a score **card**:

- **100 base points** for the base LEED Rating System

- **1 point minimum** for each credit

- **Whole points** and no fractions for LEED points.

See detailed discussions at the FREE PDF file entitled "LEED v4 Impact Category and Point Allocation Development Process" at the following link:

[usgbc.org/sites/default/files/LEED%20v4%20Impact%20Category%20and%20Point%20Allocation%20Process\\_Overview\\_0.pdf](https://usgbc.org/sites/default/files/LEED%20v4%20Impact%20Category%20and%20Point%20Allocation%20Process_Overview_0.pdf)

From the Back Cover

### **Strategies for Preparing for the LEED AP BD+C Exam**

There are several strategies for preparing for the LEED AP BD+C Exam:

#### **1. Bare bones strategy:**

This strategy is bold and risky but effective, low cost, and takes the least amount of time. You only need about two weeks to prepare for and pass the exam:

- a. Download and read the latest candidate handbook for the LEED AP BD+C Exam

- b. Study the FREE PDF files listed at the end of the latest candidate handbook for the LEED AP BD+C Exam (20% to 30% of the test content will come from these materials).



- c. Study my books, *LEED v4 BD&C Exam Guide* and *LEED v4 BD&C Mock Exam* (Covers the fundamental and most important information of the remaining 70% to 80% of test content).
- d. Do NOT buy or read the USGBC reference guide AT ALL.

**Pros:**

- a. Save time and money and still have a good chance of passing. In fact, a number of my readers did pass the exam using this approach.
- b. You can prepare and pass the exam in about **two weeks**.

**Cons:**

- a. Your score may not be as high as you want since you COMPLETELY skip the USGBC reference guide (it may range from 170 to 180).
- b. You may feel nervous during the real exam. You may swear that you will fail in the exam, but end up passing anyway. You may have no clue why you pass, but it is because my books cover the fundamental and most important information on the exam and set up a solid foundation for your LEED knowledge.

**2. Middle of the road strategy:**

This strategy is exactly the same as the **bare bone strategy** except that you do the following extra things:

- a. Buy or read portion of the USGBC reference guide to supplement my two books:  
Only refer to or read the USGBC reference guide for items you have questions about or for detailed information not covered by my books, such as the "Behind the Intent" and "Step-by-Step Guidance" sections and calculations. I skip these sections in *LEED v4 BD&C Exam Guide* because it takes too much time for you to read the information, and I think you should be able to handle most of the tasks covered in these sections if you MASTER the other sections.
- b. Do a few extra mock exams.

**Pros:**

- a. Save time and money and still have an excellent chance of passing.
- b. You can prepare for and pass the exam in about **two to four weeks**.

**Cons:**

- a. Your score may not be as high as you want (it may range from 170 to 185).
- b. You may still feel nervous during the real exam.

**3. Comprehensive strategy:**

This strategy is exactly the same as **bare bone strategy**, except that you do the following extra things:

- a. Buy or read the USGBC reference guide from cover to cover several times.
- b. Write your own notes or create your own spreadsheets based on the USGBC reference guide.
- c. Do every mock exam that you can find.

**Pros:**

- a. You have an excellent chance of passing if you can REALLY read the reference guide.

**Cons:**

- a. Your score may be either very high or very low (it may range from 180 to 200, OR fail).
- b. You need to spend two months or more to prepare for and pass the exam.
- c. You drag the exam prep process on too long and become tired of reading the USGBC reference guide OR

you can NOT find enough time to read the reference guide, and you end up failing the exam.

If you can pass the specialty exam, you should be able to pass the LEED Green Associate Exam. Make sure you download the PDF files listed in the candidate's handbook and peruse them. See FREE slides at our website on the exam prep at:  
GreenExamEducation.com

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Evelina Soria:**

The book LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4) give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make looking at a book LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4) for being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like available and read a e-book LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

#### **Edgar Hightower:**

This book untitled LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4) to be one of several books which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book shop or you can order it via online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

#### **Brian Rocha:**

Is it you who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4) can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your free time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

**Arthur Warnick:**

Reserve is one of source of information. We can add our know-how from it. Not only for students and also native or citizen have to have book to know the change information of year to be able to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside all of us add our knowledge, also can bring us to around the world. By book LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4) we can acquire more advantage. Don't someone to be creative people? For being creative person must like to read a book. Only choose the best book that suitable with your aim. Don't possibly be doubt to change your life at this book LEED v4 BD&C EXAM GUIDE: A Must-Have for the LEED AP BD+C Exam: Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building Design and Construction, LEED ... (LEED Exam Guide Series) (Volume 4). You can more pleasing than now.

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