

## SIPs & LEED For Homes

LEED for Homes provides defined goals and processes for all team members to evaluate potential design challenges and offer solutions. This approach ensures the interoperability of systems in a high-performance home. Accountability forms are used to verify the participation of team members in the design process.

Once the home design is complete, the LEED for Homes Provider or Green Rater will conduct an estimate of how the home will score on the rating system. Four levels of certification are offered depending on the amount of points earned: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Based on the preliminary evaluation, the builder may wish to include additional green technologies to meet the desired goal.

**Certified: 45 points ~ Silver: 60 points ~ Gold: 75 points ~ Platinum: 90 points**  
***SIPs can earn up to 46 total LEED points, making a project “certified” with SIPs alone!***

The Green Rater conducts two onsite inspections of the home, one during construction, usually just prior to drywall installation, and another when the home is completed. During the final inspection, the Green Rater conducts the required blower door test, duct leakage test, and other performance tests. The rater is also responsible for verifying that all the green measures in the preliminary evaluation have been successfully installed in the home.

The final step in the certification process is submitting the appropriate paperwork to the LEED for Homes Provider, who will review the documentation and certify the project. The builder receives a certificate from the USGBC and the home can be marketed as LEED for Homes certified.

### Why Certify?

While LEED Rating Systems can be useful just as tools for building professionals, there are many reasons why LEED project certification can be an asset:

- Be recognized for your commitment to environmental issues in your community, your organization (including stockholders), and your industry;
- Receive third party validation of achievement;
- Qualify for a growing array of state & local government initiatives;
- Receive marketing exposure through USGBC Web site, Greenbuild conference, case studies, and media announcements.

### How do PBS SIPs Score?

It is important to note that the below table is meant for reference only. Actual project scoring will depend on the individual rater, builder, and other factors. ***46 total points may be obtained by using PBS SIPs. A breakdown is on the following pages.***

## SIPs & LEED For Homes

### EA - Energy and Atmosphere: Maximum 39 Points

<i>Performance Path</i>	
EA 1: Optimize Energy Performance Maximum 34 Points	Using the Performance Pathway, the home is awarded points based on overall energy performance, measured by a HERS Index. A home's HERS Index is calculated by a certified energy rater and takes into account the insulation, results from a blower door test, HVAC, lighting, and other relevant information. LEED points are allocated on a scale ranging from 0 points for ENERGY STAR and 34 points for a net zero energy home. Homes must meet ENERGY STAR requirements as a prerequisite for this credit.
<i>Prescriptive Path</i>	
EA 2.1: Insulation Maximum 2 points	Builders must install insulation that meets or the requirements of the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and are given points for exceeding this standard. SIPs are listed as an exception to this requirement, and must alternately pass a visual inspection using the ENERGY STAR SIP Visual Inspection Form.
EA 3: Air Infiltration Maximum 3 points	Well sealed SIP homes have a proven track record of achieving extremely low levels of air infiltration. Homes are awarded points based on their blower door test results, with a maximum of 3 points possible.

### MR - Materials and Resources: Maximum 7 Points

MR 1.4 - Framing Efficiencies <i>Maximum 3 points</i>	The project is given one point for each SIP system used: walls, roofs, and floors. If SIP floors are not used, points can be earned by using other material efficient framing techniques, such as spacing floor joists greater than 16" o.c.
MR 2.2 - Environmentally Preferable Products <i>Maximum 1 point</i>	SIP homes qualify for 0.5 points if two of the three building components (wall, roof, or floor) use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified OSB.
MR 3.2 - Construction Waste Reduction <i>Maximum 3 points</i>	Using prefabricated SIPs decreases the amount of onsite construction waste, helping builders qualify for waste reduction points. Waste reduction points are given on a scale ranging from 0 to 3 depending on the amount of waste generated per square foot of the home.