

9.0.1. LEED Certification

Polks Centre, as well as its sister development Williams Corner, is scheduled to become LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council upon completion. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, consensus-based “national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. USGBC’s members, representing every sector of the building industry, developed and continue to refine LEED” (LEED, <http://www.usgbc.org>). Both projects will look to gain LEED certification under LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations (LEED-NC). This green building rating system was designed to guide and distinguish high-performance commercial and institutional projects, with a focus on office buildings. By becoming LEED certified, the Polks Centre development will lead an initiative for construction change and prove to be a benchmark for future projects in the state of North Carolina.

LEED was created to:

- define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement
- promote integrated, whole-building design practices
- recognize environmental leadership in the building industry
- stimulate green competition
- raise consumer awareness of green building benefits
- transform the building market

LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED recognizes achievements and promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training and practical resources.

(Courtesy of LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, <http://www.usgbc.org>)