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LEED AP Neighborhood Development (LEED ND)

USGBC LEED-AP-ND

Version Demo

Total Demo Questions: 11

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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, Smart Location & Linkage	35
Topic 2, Neighborhood Pattern & Design	34
Topic 3, Green Infrastructure & Buildings	43
Topic 4, Mix Questions	7
Total	119

QUESTION NO: 1

A standardized base map that should be used throughout the submission to illustrate relevant surrounding features forup to 1 mi.(1.6 km) around the project boundary is a

A. special map.

B. permit map.

C. vicinity map

D. project site map.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The correct term is **vicinity map**. In LEED for Neighborhood Development, the vicinity map is the standardized base map that establishes the project's broader context and is reused in applicable credit and prerequisite documentation. It depicts the project boundary together with relevant surrounding conditions within the required distance, generally up to 1 mile (1.6 kilometers). Depending on the credit, those conditions can include streets and intersections, transit service, existing uses, parks, schools, civic and community facilities, water bodies, adjacent development, and other features needed to verify location-based requirements.

Using one consistent vicinity map helps the LEED reviewer understand how the neighborhood-scale project relates to the area around it and evaluate spatial relationships consistently across the submission. It is distinct from a detailed site-level plan: its purpose is to communicate the surrounding area and the distances or connections that affect Neighborhood Development calculations. The LEED ND rating system is specifically structured to assess location, connectivity, neighborhood pattern, infrastructure, and related community context, making this standardized contextual mapping an important documentation tool. See USGBC's LEED for Neighborhood Development overview and the LEED v4 Neighborhood Development guide for rating-system and documentation guidance.

QUESTION NO: 2

In ardor to achieve the Neighborhood Pattern and Design Credit. Visit ability and Universal Design. the owner of a new six-unit residential building has decided to incorporate universal design strategies throughout each home. Which of the following features contributes to mat credit?

A. Easy-to-reach door knobs

B. Met on sensors on all faucets

C. Motion dot tic tor lighting in Bedrooms

D. Easy-touch rocker or hand-tree switches

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Easy-touch rocker or hand-tree switches is the applicable universal-design feature because it makes lighting controls operable with limited hand strength, dexterity, or grasping ability. Universal design is intended to make homes practical and usable by people with a broad range of ages and physical abilities without requiring later adaptation. Large, easy-to-activate controls support this objective by reducing the fine-motor manipulation needed to operate a conventional small toggle switch. For a new six-unit residential building, incorporating this type of control throughout the dwelling units can contribute to the LEED Neighborhood Development Neighborhood Pattern and Design credit addressing accessibility and universal design, provided that the project also meets the credit's applicable requirements and documentation conditions. The credit recognizes strategies that improve access and usability in residential settings, helping residents remain safely and independently housed as their needs change. USGBC describes LEED ND as a rating system integrating neighborhood design with green building and infrastructure strategies; accessibility and universal-design measures help advance the equitable, human-centered outcomes within that framework. See the USGBC LEED for Neighborhood Development overview and the U.S. Access Board accessibility guidance for related accessibility principles.

QUESTION NO: 3

A project team chooses to install highly efficient street lights and traffic lights throughout a 21-acre neighborhood project. Which credit could this efficiency help the team earn?

A. Light Pollution Reduction

B. Renewable Energy Production

C. Infrastructure Energy Efficiency

D. Optimize Building Energy Performance

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Infrastructure Energy Efficiency is the applicable LEED for Neighborhood Development credit because it addresses energy performance of neighborhood-scale infrastructure that is outside individual buildings. Efficient streetlights and traffic signals directly reduce the electricity used for public-right-of-way and site infrastructure operations. The credit recognizes project teams that improve the energy efficiency of these systems, helping lower ongoing energy demand and associated greenhouse-gas emissions over the life of the neighborhood. In practice, a team may document compliant high-efficiency lighting and traffic-signal equipment, along with the required performance calculations or installed-equipment information specified by the applicable LEED ND rating-system version. The project area does not change the basic connection: the measure concerns installed infrastructure serving the neighborhood, rather than energy performance within buildings. USGBC identifies neighborhood-scale energy and infrastructure strategies as part of the Green Infrastructure and Buildings component of LEED ND. See USGBC's LEED for Neighborhood Development overview and the USGBC Credit Library for the current credit requirements and documentation guidance.

QUESTION NO: 4

A local zoning code limits density on a residentially-zoned 10-acre (four hectare) parcel to 65 total units The site la outside ofwalking distance to transit service.Howcould this project be eligible for Neighborhood Pattern and Design Prerequisite Compact Development?

A. Dedicate 10% of the total land area as a public park

B. Place 15% of the total land area in private roads and streets

C. Include 15% of the total land area as a protected community open space easement

D. Include a recreation building with a development footprint of at least 1.5 acres (0.6 hectare)

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Include 15% of the total land area as a protected community open space easement is correct because the prerequisite evaluates residential density using buildable land available for residential uses. Land that is permanently protected from development through a recorded conservation or open-space easement is not buildable residential land and can therefore be excluded from the density denominator. On the full 10-acre parcel, the zoning maximum of 65 homes produces only 6.5 dwelling units per acre. Protecting 15% of the site leaves 8.5 acres of buildable residential land. The resulting net density is 65 dwelling units divided by 8.5 acres, or approximately 7.65 dwelling units per acre, which meets the prerequisite's minimum compact-development density threshold. The protection must be durable and legally enforceable, such as a recorded easement, so that the land cannot later be used to dilute the project's residential density calculation. This approach allows the project to comply without exceeding the local cap of 65 dwelling units. USGBC describes Neighborhood Development requirements and rating-system resources at USGBC LEED for Neighborhood Development and provides the applicable rating-system materials through LEED v4 resources.

QUESTION NO: 5

Aneighborhood project pursuing LEED for Neighborhood Development certification has 10 existing single family homes and is planning to construct 25 new single family homes Which of the following is Hue in order for the project to comply with GIBc Minimum Building Energy Performance?

A. GIB Minimum Building Energy Performance does not apply to single-family homes.

B. 90% of all 25 new homes must show a 2% improvement over ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2010.

C. 90% of all 35 new and existing homes must show a 5% improvement over ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2010.

D. 90% of all new homes must meet the requirements of the LEED v4 Homes Minimum Energy Performance prerequisite.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

For the new single-family residential portion of this LEED for Neighborhood Development project, the applicable compliance path is the *Minimum Energy Performance* prerequisite in the LEED v4 Homes rating system. LEED ND's Green Infrastructure and Buildings minimum energy prerequisite directs new residential buildings to use the Homes energy prerequisite rather than a commercial-building energy model. The project therefore needs to document that the required proportion of its new residential construction complies with the Homes prerequisite. In the scenario given, this means that at least 90% of the 25 new homes must meet the LEED v4 Homes minimum energy-performance requirements; expressed as whole dwelling units, that is at least 23 homes. The existing homes are not counted with the new-home compliance population for this new residential construction pathway. The Homes prerequisite establishes the baseline energy-performance threshold for dwelling units, including the required home-energy-rating or equivalent compliance methodology. This approach ensures that the neighborhood's newly constructed housing achieves a minimum, verifiable level of energy efficiency before LEED ND certification is awarded. See the USGBC LEED ND Minimum Building Energy Performance prerequisite and the LEED v4 rating-system resources.

QUESTION NO: 6

A project calculates an overall annual heating and/or cooling consumption reduction using an energy efficiency model. Which credit would this calculation aid in documenting?

A. Green Infrastructure and Buildings Credit. Heat Island Reduction

B. Green Infrastructure and Buildings Credit. Solar Orientation

C. Green Infrastructure and Buildings Credit. District Heating and Cooling

D. Green Infrastructure and Buildings Credit. Infrastructure Energy Efficiency

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Green Infrastructure and Buildings Credit. District Heating and Cooling is the applicable credit because its compliance pathway evaluates the performance of a district energy system that supplies thermal energy for space heating, space cooling, or both. The project must use an energy model to quantify the system's overall annual heating and/or cooling energy consumption and compare that consumption with an appropriate baseline. This analysis demonstrates whether the district system achieves the required improvement in thermal-energy performance.

A district system typically produces heating or cooling centrally and distributes it to multiple connected buildings through a shared network. Its energy performance depends on the efficiency of generation equipment, distribution losses, plant controls, heat recovery, and the load served across the development. Modeling annual consumption is therefore essential: it captures operation over varying weather conditions and building loads rather than relying on a single equipment efficiency value. The documented reduction provides the quantitative basis for awarding this credit and supports the credit's goal of reducing the environmental impacts associated with thermal energy generation and delivery. See the official LEED v4 Neighborhood Development rating system and USGBC's LEED v4 information page.

QUESTION NO: 7

A project is pursuing Neighborhood Pattern and Design Credit. Local Food Production Restrictions in deeds or covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) may prohibit greenhouses in which location?

A. Rooftops

B. Back yards

C. Side yard facing the circulation network

D. Front yards facing the circulation network

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Front yards facing the circulation network is correct. Under LEED Neighborhood Development's Local Food Production requirements, projects must avoid deed restrictions or CC&Rs that unreasonably limit food cultivation and related infrastructure. The intent is to ensure that residents have practical opportunities to grow food within the neighborhood, including through gardens, edible landscaping, and greenhouses. LEED recognizes, however, that a project's publicly visible street frontage can be subject to narrowly tailored aesthetic or access-related controls. Therefore, a restriction may prohibit a greenhouse in a front yard that faces the circulation network. This limited allowance preserves the credit's overall objective because it does not prevent residents from using other suitable areas of their lots or buildings for food production. For exam purposes, focus on the distinction between a front yard exposed to the circulation network and locations that are less directly part of the neighborhood's public streetscape. The requirement concerns private legal restrictions, so the project team should review proposed covenants and deed language early and ensure that they retain meaningful resident access to local-food-growing opportunities. See USGBC's LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system and the LEED v4 resources page for the applicable rating-system framework and credit materials.

QUESTION NO: 8

An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan Is required to achieve Green infrastructure and Buildings Prerequisite Construction Activity Pollution Prevention. Which of the following Is an objective of this prerequisite?

A. increasing stormwater flow rates off a site

B. Providing a long term strategy for flood control

C. Preventing air pollution with dust and particulate matter

D. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Preventing air pollution with dust and particulate matter is an objective of the LEED for Neighborhood Development Green Infrastructure and Buildings prerequisite, Construction Activity Pollution Prevention. During site clearing, grading, excavation, stockpiling, and vehicle movement, exposed soil and construction materials can generate windblown dust and fine particulate matter. An erosion and sedimentation control plan must therefore include practices that limit these emissions, such as stabilizing disturbed soils, covering or managing stockpiles, controlling track-out, and using appropriate dust-suppression measures. These measures protect air quality for workers and nearby communities while supporting orderly, environmentally responsible construction operations.

The prerequisite requires a plan for all construction activities associated with the project and aligns its erosion and sedimentation-control expectations with the applicable EPA Construction General Permit or a qualifying local program, whichever is more stringent. In addition to particulate control, this type of plan addresses the management of erosion and sediment transport from disturbed areas throughout construction. See the USGBC prerequisite page in the LEED Credit Library and the EPA's Construction General Permit resources.

QUESTION NO: 9

A LEEDV for Neighborhood Development registeredproject is planning on using airconditioning condensate tor flushing toilets in all new buildings. WhatLEED Prerequisite or creditwill this design help achieve?

A. GIB Credit Rainwater Management

B. Credit Outdoor Water Use Reduction

C. GIB Credit Wastewater Management

D. GIB Credit Indoor Water Use Reduction

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

GIB Credit Indoor Water Use Reduction is achieved in part by reducing potable-water demand from indoor plumbing fixtures and fittings compared with the applicable baseline. Air-conditioning condensate is water recovered when moisture in air condenses on cooling equipment. When it is collected, treated as needed, and distributed through a properly designed nonpotable-water system for toilet flushing, it displaces potable water that otherwise would be used for that indoor fixture demand. In a neighborhood development, applying this strategy across new buildings can make a meaningful contribution to the project's aggregate indoor potable-water reduction calculation. The design team should account for the anticipated condensate supply, fixture flushing demand, storage, treatment, labeling, cross-connection controls, and any local public-health or plumbing-code requirements. LEED recognizes the value of reducing potable water consumption through efficient fixtures and alternative water sources, while the project must substantiate the resulting water-use reduction through its LEED documentation. USGBC's LEED overview is available at USGBC LEED v4, and EPA guidance on water efficiency in commercial buildings is available from EPA WaterSense.

QUESTION NO: 10

For Neighborhood Pattern and Design Tree-Lined and Shaded Streetscapes Credit - Option 2 Shaded Sidewalks.what size of newly planted trees can be considered in calculating the percentage or shaded sidewalks?

A. Crown diameter at time of purchase

B. Crown diameter at time of planting

C. Crown diameter five years after planting

D. Crown diameter 10 years after planting

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Crown diameter 10 years after planting is the appropriate basis for calculating shaded-sidewalk coverage from newly planted trees. The Tree-Lined and Shaded Streetscapes credit evaluates whether the pedestrian realm will provide meaningful, durable shade rather than limiting the calculation to the relatively small canopy present on installation day. Accordingly, a project team may use the expected crown diameter of a newly planted tree after 10 years of growth when mapping tree-canopy shade over qualifying sidewalks.

This forward-looking calculation supports the credit's intent: creating comfortable, walkable streets that mitigate solar exposure and urban heat as the development becomes established. Teams should use credible, species-appropriate growth data and account for the planned planting locations, spacing, and canopy geometry. The proposed landscape plan and planting schedule should clearly demonstrate that the required percentage of sidewalk area will be shaded under the credit's prescribed conditions, using the projected 10-year canopy extent for new trees. This approach also encourages selection of tree species and planting designs capable of providing substantial long-term pedestrian benefits.

See USGBC's Tree-Lined and Shaded Streetscapes credit page and the LEED v4 Neighborhood Development guide for the applicable credit requirements and calculation guidance.

QUESTION NO: 11

A neighborhood project includes a bicycle network that connects residences to a nearby transit station and commercial area. The project team proposes only uncovered bicycle racks placed at building entrances. Which additional measure would most strengthen the team's approach to Smart Location and Linkage Credit Bicycle Facilities?

A. Provide secure, convenient long-term bicycle storage for regular occupants

B. Increase the number of automobile parking spaces near each building entrance

C. Widen vehicle travel lanes on streets serving the bicycle network

D. Install decorative signs displaying bicycle route symbols

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Providing secure, convenient long-term bicycle storage for regular occupants is correct because Bicycle Facilities is intended to make bicycling a practical transportation choice, not merely to provide short-term visitor parking. Long-term storage should allow residents and employees to leave bicycles safely for extended periods.

Additional automobile parking, wider vehicle travel lanes, and decorative bicycle signs do not address the security and practicality of regular bicycle use.