



**INFORMATION PAPER**

**TO:** *Sustainability Work Group*

**FROM:** *Randy Clark, Interim Senior Director, Districtwide Facilities*

**DATE:** *October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

**SUBJECT:** *LEED or CALGreen?*

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What is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)? It is a voluntary certification through the US Green Building Council (USGBC) that validates a building has been built with 'green' features and that the building will operate in an efficient manner. Points are selected a la carte, allowing flexibility of design and construction. LEED certification levels are:

- Certified (40 – 49 points)
- Silver (50-59 points)
- Gold (60 – 79 points)
- Platinum (80 points and above).

What is CALGreen? It is the mandatory 2016 California Building Code that requires, as part of the design process, all new buildings and renovations meet certain minimum sustainability and ecological standards. Additional items are voluntary. CALGreen certification levels are:

- Tier 1: Compliance with latest edition of 'Savings by Design.' This level is the mandatory minimum design standard and is certified by the architect upon plan submittal to DSA.
- Tier 2: Exceed latest edition of 'Savings by Design' by a minimum of 15%.

What are some distinctives? Please see attachment one (1) for further details.

- CALGreen has specific requirements in a variety of building design and construction categories (see attachment two (2)). LEED has a matrix of requirements and points and the design team can choose which points to go after and which to not pursue (see attachment three (3)).
- LEED was one of the first green building initiatives and is widely recognized. CALGreen is newer, is some ways more stringent than LEED and is applicable only in the state of California.
- LEED certification provides an easily recognized wall plaque for public recognition. CALGreen provides no such public recognition.
- Please note our Design Guidelines and Standards are consistent with both LEED Silver and CALGreen Tier 1.

What are the costs?

- LEED has application fees of \$5,000, adds to project costs thru mandatory reporting processes and requires ongoing monitoring and reporting for five years after construction completion. Example: LEED certification and monitoring for GC Performance Theater has been estimated at \$174,000 by LPA, the project architects.
- CALGreen has no application fees, ongoing monitoring or reporting costs.