

USGBC National Capital Region Net Zero Award Criteria

In order to recognize the exceptional achievements of net zero energy or carbon buildings in the National Capital Region, the NCR Community offers a unique award designed to spotlight cutting edge projects that exemplify what's really possible in today's built environment. The award will be presented during our annual NCR Community Leader Awards program at A Midsummer's Night Green in July 2020. Unlike other awards in the program, the Net Zero Awards will be awarded automatically to any project applicants that have achieved [LEED Zero certification in any category](#), as well as exceptional non-certified buildings that meet strict criteria defined below. As many projects that meet the criteria each year and apply will get recognized. No award will be given if no project qualifies, and an application for this award does not preclude a project from applying for other Project Awards. Net zero water and waste awards will be added in the future.

Project that meet the following criteria and apply will be awarded:

- Option 1: LEED and LEED Zero Certification, or:
- Option 2:

For projects pursuing a zero energy award, 12 months of performance data is required for demonstrating a source energy use balance of zero has been achieved.

Projects must achieve a source energy use balance of zero based on the quantity of energy consumed and the quantity of energy generated by the project.

Source Energy Balance = Total Energy Consumed – Total Energy Generated On-Site or Procured Off-site.

[See Page 5 of the LEED Zero Program guide for a complete definition of requirements.](#)

For projects pursuing a zero carbon award, 12 months of performance data is required for demonstrating a carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO₂E) balance of zero. A CO₂E balance of zero is calculated using this formula:

Carbon Balance = Total Carbon Caused - Total Carbon Avoided

Carbon Caused is calculated from building energy consumption *and* occupant transportation. Carbon Avoided includes both on-site renewable energy generation and off-site renewable energy procurement.

[See Page 3 of the LEED Zero Program guide for a complete definition of requirements.](#)

Application deadline and fee

Applications are due Friday May 1, 2020 by 5:00 pm EDT.

The application fee is \$125 per project nominated. Payment must be received by the May 1st deadline in order for the application to move forward for judging. To pay this fee, visit [this website](#) and use the password *GreenWin20* to access the page.

Submission requirements

Please Note: If you are submitting multiple projects, you must submit a separate application form for each. Only fully completed forms will be considered.

Application Process:

In addition to the standard documents required for Project Award submission noted below, applicants must submit additional documentation that covers the following:

- Option 1: LEED and LEED Zero Scorecard and certification documentation, or:
- Option 2:
 - 12 months of performance data demonstrating zero balance has been met according to above criteria, including documentation for each source of renewable energy included in calculations.
 - Documentation of energy and building systems modeling used as a design tool to define EUI and building systems selection
 - List energy and building systems considered and applied in the project, and offer the decision basis for what was implemented
 - Explanation of how design intent considered operations required to maintain net zero energy operations over life of the building

Submission Format

Projects should be submitted as PDFs, no more than (4) pages in length. Scorecards do not count toward the page length restriction. SUBMISSIONS OVER 4 PAGES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Executive Summary

Provide an executive summary of the building's sustainable attributes. Include any unique or outstanding circumstances, challenges overcome, or innovative practices developed. Be sure to address all of the judging criteria.

Project Images

At least 5 images should be included in the submission which provide an understanding of the implementation of the features noted in the project submission.

Online Form

Projects must additionally complete an [online submission form](#). A PDF preview of the form is available on [this page](#) (click the appropriate link above the yellow Apply Now button). Please note,

the PDF version is for preview only. You must complete the online form for your submission to be received.

The online form will require disclosure of the following information:

Project Data

Provide the following basic project data:

- Total Building Area (Gross Square Feet)
- Total Project Area (Gross Square Feet)
- Total number of full time on site employees/tenants/residents
- Estimated number of daily average visitors
- Year of original construction and (if applicable) substantial renovation
- Name of the applicant (must be an individual member of USGBC National Capital Region, or a USGBC National Capital Region [annual partner](#) employee)

Project Team

Submissions can list all project teams which made a measurable contribution to the project's sustainable success. Project team members listed in the award will be listed in the presentation of the award, and press releases related to the award. Teams you might list here include: Client, Design Firm, Executive Architect/Firm of Record, Landscape, Project Management, Sustainable Consultant, MEP Engineers, Structural Engineer, Commissioning Agent, IAQ Consultant, Lighting, Acoustic, Furniture, Other. **NOTE: Only one physical award is provided to the winning projects' application. Additional awards can be ordered.**

People's Choice Awards

All project entries for the Net Zero Award may also be submitted in this additional category by providing additional required material. The winner will be selected by vote at A Midsummer Night's Green in July 2020.

Projects seeking to enter the People's Choice Award competition must pay an additional \$50 fee and provide a poster designed utilizing a provided template for display and public judging at A Midsummer Night's Green. Posters will also be on permanent display on the A Midsummer Night's Green website. If you are unable to provide a digital image of the poster design by the appropriate deadline *and* bring a poster to the awards program for judging at the event, you will forfeit your entry.

Visit [this webpage](#) to download the complete poster design template file (click the appropriate link above the yellow Apply Now button.) All content needs to be on one side and should be large enough to read from about a foot away. We require using eco-friendly printing on recyclable poster board and mounting methods. USGBC NCR uses [CSI Printing](#) and requests enviroboard, but you are free to find your own sustainable printer. **The deadline for submitting poster images for display on event website is June 1, 2020.**

Presentation of Awards

A third-party selection committee will conduct judging and the winners will be announced at USGBC National Capital Region's signature event, [A Midsummer Night's Green](#), which will take place in July 2020.

Judges' note: Awards may not be given in all categories if there are not submissions which meet, in the judging panel's opinion, the standard of excellence and innovation that the Awards are intended to recognize.

Please address questions to ldewitte@usgbc.org.