

Project Awards

[The USGBC National Capital Region \(USGBC NCR\)](#) is working to make healthy, sustainable buildings a reality for the people of the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan area within a generation. We serve the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland; and northern Virginia, including the following counties: Frederick, Loudon, Shenandoah, Prince William, Stafford, Fairfax, and Arlington.

The Project Awards will recognize projects located in the USGBC NCR territory, which have been awarded certification between May 16, 2019 and April 15, 2020. For Neighborhood Development projects, planned projects must have been submitted for municipal review or approval between May 16, 2019 and April 15, 2020. Responsible Design projects will have completed construction between May 16, 2019 and April 15, 2020.

Note: To be eligible for an award, the project area must encompass a minimum of 3,000 USF and 3 Full Time Equivalent Occupants and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Projects may be owned or leased by the applicant or applicant's organization.

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.

The 2020 USGBC NCR Project Awards will include the following 10 categories for submissions:

People's Choice Award

All project entries may also be submitted in this additional category by providing additional required material. Projects cannot be submitted in the People's Choice category without also being submitted for another Project award (Innovative Project of the Year – various categories, Net Zero, or Responsible Design). The winner will be selected by vote at A Midsummer Night's Green in July 2020. Project posters will be permanently displayed on event website and at A Midsummer Night's Green.

Net Zero Award

In order to recognize the exceptional achievements of net zero energy or carbon buildings in the National Capital Region, the NCR Community has launched a unique award designed to spotlight cutting edge projects that exemplify what's really possible in today's built environment. The award will be added to the 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.

VISIT [THIS WEBPAGE](#) TO READ THE FULL AWARD DESCRIPTION (click the appropriate link above the yellow Apply Now button).

Innovative Project of the Year – New Construction, Commercial

Applies to projects certified under the USGBC's Building Design and Construction rating system, including New Construction, Core & Shell, Retail, Hospitality, Data Centers, Warehouses & Distribution Centers, and Healthcare.

Innovative Project of the Year – New Construction, Schools

Applies to schools projects (University and K-12) certified under the USGBC's Building Design and Construction rating system.

Innovative Project of the Year – Residential

Applies to high rise multi-family residential or mixed-used projects certified under USGBC's Building Design and Construction rating system, AND; LEED for Homes rating system, including single family homes, low-rise multi-family (one to three stories), or mid-rise multi-family (four to six stories); includes Homes and Multifamily Low-rise and Multifamily Mid-rise.

Innovative Project of the Year – Interior Construction

Applies to projects certified under the USGBC's Interior Design and Construction rating system, including Commercial Interiors, Retail and Hospitality.

Innovative Project of the Year – Existing Building Performance

Applies to projects certified under the USGBC's Existing Building Operations and Maintenance rating system, including v4.1 O + M and v4.0 Existing Buildings, Schools, Retail, Hospitality, Data Centers, and Warehouses & Distribution Centers.

Innovative Project of the Year – Neighborhood Development

Applies to projects certified under the USGBC's Neighborhood Development rating system, including new land development projects or redevelopment projects containing residential uses, nonresidential uses, or a mix. Projects can be at any stage of the development process, from conceptual planning to construction; includes Planned and Built Projects.

Innovative Project of the Year - Health and Wellness in the Built Environment

The built environment has profound effects on human health and the world around us. Human capital costs typically account for 90% of business operating costs and most people spend 90% of their time indoors; thus the built environment has the potential to deeply impact our greatest asset—people. The quality of indoor space design—including temperature, humidity, noise, light, space, and air quality—affects health and productivity, and can have significant financial implications for employers. Additionally, access to active commuting opportunities, areas for biophilic interaction, and inclusion of diverse mixed-use development near transit can greatly strengthen public health and community cohesiveness.

Applies to projects which are WELL Certified, or have demonstrated advanced commitment to health and wellness in the built environment without attaining a certification.

Responsible Design

Not all notable sustainable activities in the USGBC-NCR region achieve a certification. Projects eligible in this category either do not have a third party certification, or are certified under any GBCI third party green building rating systems not listed above, such as: SITES (Sustainable Sites Initiative), PEER, TRUE or Parksmart. (Projects which are certified under other GBCI LEED rating systems should apply in the relevant category listed above.)

Project Awards Judging Criteria

The following judging criteria will be applied to all building awards category projects.

LEED Certification Level (does not apply to Notable Green or Excellence in Performance Projects)

Points will be provided for LEED certification for each project, with higher point values awarded for higher certification levels, and higher points also awarded for more recent certification systems (v3 vs v4, for example).

Innovation Beyond Certification

Consideration will also be given to efforts made by the project team which go beyond the features or credits currently covered by rating systems, producing new and innovative approaches in their award category.

Degree of Difficulty

What challenges were overcome by the project team? Project teams which can demonstrate how they overcame significant obstacles to certification will have this taken into account in the awards process.

Integrative Process

Integrative process is an important part of award-winning sustainable design. Project teams should demonstrate how they identified and used opportunities to achieve synergies across disciplines and between construction professionals and end user groups, and how those synergies and analyses informed the design of the project.

Design Flexibility and Life Cycle Impact Reduction

Project teams should describe how their project has planned to accommodate future changes in development planning, building use, organizational change, and structure which will thereby minimize a future impact on the environment.

Community Engagement

From the greater municipality to the microcosm of a tenant environment, all project categories will have some impact on the community into which they are integrated. Project teams should describe how their project has engaged the participation of, and been designed to positively impact, their respective communities.

This description will vary by project scale—for example, an EBOM project might describe how they are engaging their tenant community to achieve their current and future goals, an ND project might describe how they have engaged with the local municipalities and adjoining neighborhoods, and an ID+C project might describe how they solicited and integrated an organization's staff or cultural goals in the process of generating their final design.

Health and Wellness Integration

Green and sustainable built environments strive to be supportive of their occupants, and should have a positive impact on their occupants. Project teams should describe how their design and/or operations strategies will enhance the health and wellbeing of those they are designed to serve.

Overall Project Presentation

Both form and function count! Submissions should clearly address all judging criteria, be clearly organized, visually compelling, engaging, and easy to read.

Application Deadline & Fee, Submission Requirements, & Online Form

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.

Projects seeking to enter the People's Choice Award competition have the option of paying an additional \$50 fee and agreeing to provide a poster designed utilizing the provided template for display and public judging at A Midsummer Night's Green in July 2020.

The Deadline for submitting poster images for display on event website is June 1, 2020.

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.

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.

People's Choice Posters

Projects seeking to enter the competition must provide the required information and a poster designed utilizing the format provided. 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.

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.

Visit [this webpage](#) to download the complete poster design template file (click the appropriate link above the yellow Apply Now button.)

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)

Note: To be eligible for any category other than Responsible Design, the project area must encompass a minimum of 3,000 SF and 3 Full Time Equivalent Occupants, and comply with all applicable environmental laws.

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.**

LEED Scorecard (does not necessarily apply to Net Zero, Responsible Design or Health and Wellness in the Built Environment—though if a certification is claimed or noted in the submission a scorecard should be supplied)

Project teams must supply an official, final Scorecard or report which lists all credits awarded and the final certification point total and award level. This scorecard must be a scorecard generated by or received from the certifying body (scorecards generated by the project team will not be accepted).

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.