

Sustainable Success Stories

LEED Ordinance

Goal:

This ordinance will help Kansas City, Mo. achieve certification as a green city.

Project Description:

Kansas City, Mo., recently adopted an ordinance which requires the design, construction and operation of any new building and the renovation of any building with more than 5,000 square feet of space must conform to the Silver rating (or higher) of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System.

The ordinance establishes a LEED Standards Committee. The Standards Committee will oversee all projects to make sure the LEED silver rating is achieved.

Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

The adoption of this resolution will translate into taxpayer dollars saved through lower operating and maintenance costs in the more energy-efficient buildings, as well as the reduction of stormwater runoff into local sewers and waterways, improving the health and productivity of building occupants by achieving better environmental quality, and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:

Funding for the ordinance is not necessary, however, the LEED silver rating will be achieved through each specific project's funding, which could come, for example, from the city's general operational budget, a specific sales tax or the Public Improvements Advisory Committee.

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