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LEED®-ing Your Campus Toward Sustainability

Colleges and universities leading the way in sustainability are incorporating LEED® building certification into their campuses. LEED®, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a renowned certification program from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED has become increasingly popular in recent years as the premier rating system for green buildings. According to the USGBC, "With roughly 240,000 buildings spread across over 4,100 higher education institutions, colleges and universities can benefit from making green building a central element of sustainability planning." Currently there are 127 LEED registered or certified building projects underway at higher education institutions across Ohio.

To further signify its importance, LEED® has been incorporated into the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) and is also one of the seven listed tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases for the American College and University President's Climate Commitment.

Some additional benefits of LEED building can include: improved water quality; reduced solid waste disposal; reduced operating costs; enhanced asset value; improved air, thermal, and acoustic environments; enhanced occupant comfort and health; and the contribution to the overall quality of life to the community.

According to Karl E. Knapp, of MAP Royalty, Inc., and Christina Liebner, of Rumsey Engineers, Inc., in their report, *To LEED or Not to LEED: A Review of Green Building Policies in Higher Education*, the following are a few reasons why institutions are embracing LEED:

- LEED certification aligns building policy with campus sustainability goals.
- LEED is widely recognizable and allows the institution to be held in the public's high regard.
- LEED develops the interest of alumni and donors.
- LEED has proven to be less expensive and resource intensive than previously thought.

If your institution has not already committed to green building practices for your campus, it may prove beneficial to the institution's sustainability program and the bottom line.

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-USGBC

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Looking for more answers regarding LEED®? Affinity has a LEED® AP Professional on staff to answer your questions and help you achieve your green building goals.

Affinity Consultants, Inc. can also assist your institution on its road to sustainability by conducting detailed sustainability assessments, greenhouse gas inventories, cross-sectional committee implementation, development of a sustainability programs, climate action plans, and reporting activities.

If you have any questions, or require more information on LEED®, climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and other environmental and sustainability issues, feel free to contact [Affinity Consultants, Inc.](#)

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