

What is a green building ?

TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER MUSEUM,
Tampa, FL
LEED BD+C NEW CONSTRUCTION v2.2, Silver 2012



“ The eye-catching, 60,000 sf facility, is situated in downtown Tampa. Its energy-efficient design integrates low-emissive, argon-filled glazing on windows, and aluminum sunshade extensions allow natural light to pour over the history center’s exterior while preventing solar heat gain. It was built with all regional and renewable materials, such as Marmoleum flooring (long-lasting, nontoxic linoleum made from all-natural components). More than 95 percent of construction debris was diverted from Florida landfills. “
[Tampa Bay History Center](#)



Photo Credit: Everglades University

Since 1998, collaborative efforts of Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) companies have been transforming the way buildings are designed, built, and operated through an integrate process that focuses on the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment.

US Green Building Council ([USGBC](#)) is best known as the developer of the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ([LEED](#)) green building rating system, which is recognized world wide. LEED emphasizes strategies for human and environmental health such as sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, smart material selection and indoor environmental quality, for all building types.

According to USGBC, on average, green buildings reduce energy usage by 24-50%, water usage by 40%, and construction waste by 70%, as compared with conventional building. More than 59,000 commercial, neighborhood and residential projects are currently LEED Certified, comprising more than six billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 164 countries and territories globally.

“Florida ranked fourth in the number of LEED projects in the U.S. in 2016” USGBC Florida



LEED and green buildings in Florida

“Floridians are recognizing that sustainability is the key to a prosperous future. Florida ranked fourth in the number of LEED projects in the U.S. in 2016. Through January 10, 2017, Florida has 1,422 LEED Certified projects representing more than 125 million square feet. This speaks volumes about Florida's commitment to environmental excellence and social responsibility,” said Mike Hess, Chair of the USGBC Florida Chapter. “We applaud the companies, owners, municipalities and everyone who played even a small part in this effort to deliver environmentally responsible, healthy and resource-efficient buildings in 2016 and in the future.”

USGBC Florida Chapter

Our local chapter ([USGBC Florida](#)) has nearly 20,000 members, volunteers and friends providing educational programs and market transformation services to the Sunshine State from seven Regions -- Central Florida, Florida Capital, Florida Gulf Coast, Heart of Florida, Northeast Florida, Northern Gulf Coast, and South Florida.

"Getting involved with the USGBC is a great way to network, meet people in the same industry and learn about sustainability and the built environment. Becoming an Emerging Professional (EP) member of the USGBC Florida has many great benefits. We offer various events throughout the year, from monthly webinars, building tours, educational panels, networking events to community service projects we have something for everyone." said Sarah Mason, Chair of the USGBC Florida Gulf Coast Region, Tampa Bay Branch. Visit <https://usgbcflorida.org/Emerging-Professionals-&Students>



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