

GREEN TERMINOLOGY,
ORGANIZATIONS & ACRONYMS

Acid Rain	The precipitation of dilute solutions of strong mineral acids, formed by the mixing in the atmosphere of various industrial pollutants (primarily sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides) with naturally occurring oxygen and water vapor.
Adaptive Reuse	The renovation of a building or site to include elements that allow a particular use or uses to occupy a space that originally was intended for a different use.
AIA	American Institute of Architects
ACEEE	American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
AFV	Alternative-Fueled Vehicle: e.g., hybrid-electric, electric, natural gas, bio-diesel, and fuel-cell
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-conditioning Engineers, Inc.
Assembly Recycled Content	Includes the percentages of post-consumer and pre-consumer content. The determination is made by dividing the weight of the recycled content by the overall weight of the assembly.
ASTM	American Society of Testing and Materials (actually an international organization)
BAS	Building Automation System: a network of electronic devices that control mechanical and lighting systems.
Biodegradable	Degrading of a product that is organic.
BIPV	Building Integrated Photovoltaics: e.g., integrated with roof, spandrels, glazing, or shading devices
BMP	Best Management Practice
BOD	Basis of Design: design information necessary to accomplish the owner's project requirements, including system descriptions, indoor environmental quality criteria, other pertinent design

* Definitions taken in part from USGBC educational materials, FTC Green Guides.

assumptions (such as weather data), and references to applicable codes, standards, regulations and guidelines.

CBECS	Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey: DOE database logging actual building energy use figures
CDVR	Corrected Design Ventilation Rate: design ventilation rate divided by the air-change effectiveness
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons: ozone-depleting constituent of the most widely used HV AC refrigerants
CFR	U.S. Code of Federal Regulations
CIBSE	Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
COC	Chain-of-Custody: proper accounting for the flow of materials
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
Commissioning Plan	A document defining the commissioning process, which is developed in increasing detail as the project progresses through its various phases up to LEED certification.
Compostable	Product or package that breaks down in a timely manner to be used as compost.
CRI	Carpet & Rug Institute
CRS	Center for Resource Solutions
CSI	Construction Specifications Institute
CxA	Commissioning Authority: an independent representative who guides the commissioning process
DCV	Demand Controlled Ventilation: outdoor airflow rate is determined by CO ₂ monitors within occupied spaces
Degradable	The general term of break down of a product.
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy

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ECM	Energy Conservation Measure: tracked in support of measurement and verification
Emissivity	The ratio of the radiation emitted by a surface to the radiation emitted by a blackbody at the same temperature. Ability of a surface to emit or shed infrared heat.
ENERGY STAR Rating	The rating a building earns using the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manger to compare building energy performance to similar buildings in similar climates. A score of 50 represents average building performance.
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESC	Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan
ETS	Environmental Tobacco Smoke, this includes the smoke that is transported between spaces by ventilation systems
FEMA	U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent: a method of measuring total occupant hours in a building
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GF	Glazing Factor: the percentage ratio of exterior illumination to interior illumination
GHGs	Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide
Greenfields	Sites that have not been previously developed or graded and remain in a natural state.
Greenhouse Gases	Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and CFCs that are relatively transparent to the higher-energy sunlight, but trap lower-energy infrared radiation.
GWP	Global Warming Potential: rating of a gaseous substance's contribution to greenhouse effects
HCFCs	Hydrochloroflouorocarbons: alternative refrigerant type that has reduced ozone-depleting effects

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Heat Island Effect	Occurs when warmer temperatures are experienced in urban landscapes compared to adjacent rural areas as a result of solar energy retention on constructed surfaces. Principal surfaces that contribute to the heat island effect include streets, sidewalks, parking lots and buildings.
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons: alternative refrigerant with no ozone-depleting effects but some tradeoffs
HVAC&R	Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration
IAQ	Indoor Air Quality with respect to human occupancy of a building
IEQ	Indoor Environmental Quality: includes IAQs, thermal comfort, daylighting, acoustics, etc.
IESNA	Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
IPLV	Integrated Part Load Value: chiller efficiency including part-load operation for a given duty cycle
IPMVP	International Performance Measurement & Verification Protocol, Inc.
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LCA	Life-Cycle Assessment/Analysis: a full accounting of a material's "cradle-to-grave" environmental impacts; an evaluation of the environmental effects of a produce or activity holistically, by analyzing the entire life cycle of a particular material, process, product, technology, service, or activity.
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
Light Pollution	Waste light from building sites that produces glare, is directed upward to the sky or is directed off the site.
LZ	Lighting Zone: ASHRAE/IESNA that determine the amount of light appropriate to a land use
Meeting Controls	Generally manual on/automatic off controls which are used to limit the flow time of water. These types of controls are most commonly installed on laboratory faucets and on showers.

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MERV	Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value: a measure of the effectiveness of air filtration media
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet: provides essential information on composition, hazards, & precautions
M&V	Measurement & Verification: the process of monitoring building systems to ensure optimal performance
NFRC	National Fenestration Rating Council
ODP	Ozone Depleting Potential: rating of a gaseous substance's ability to destroy stratospheric ozone
OPR	Owner's Project Requirements: the functional requirement of a project and the expectations of use and operations
Ozone Safe or Ozone Friendly	Free of any ozone-depleting substances.
Photodegradable	Product or material that breaks down by light.
Post-consumer	Waste material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of materials from the distribution chain (source: ISO 14021). Examples of this category include construction and demolition debris, materials collected through curbside and drop-off recycling programs, broken pallets (if from a pallet refurbishing company, not a pallet making company), discarded products (e.g., furniture, cabinetry and decking) and urban maintenance waste (e.g., leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings, etc.).
Pre-consumer Content	Defined as material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it (source ISO 14021). Examples in this category include planer shavings, plytrim, sawdust, chips, bagasse, sunflower seed hulls, walnut shells, culls, trimmed materials, print overruns, over-issue publications, and obsolete inventories. (Also referred to as Post-industrial Content.)

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PRM	Performance Rating Method: requires development of an energy model for the proposed building design
Rapidly Renewable Materials	Material considered to be an agricultural product, both fiber and animal, that takes 10 years or less to grow or raise, and to harvest in an ongoing and sustainable fashion.
REC	Renewable Energy Certificate: purchased as offsets when alternative energy (e.g., wind) cannot be directly used; RECs are a representation of the environmental attributes of green power, and are sold separately from the electrons that make up the electricity; RECs allow the purchase of green power even when the electrons are not purchased.
Recyclable	A product or package that can be taken from a solid waste stream and reused.
Recycled Content	The % of content that is materials diverted from solid waste stream during manufacturing (pre-consumer) or after consumer use (post-consumer).
Recycling	The collection, reprocessing, marketing and use of materials that were diverted or recovered from the solid waste stream.
Regionally Extracted Materials	For LEED for New Construction purposes, must have their source as a raw material from within 500-mile radius of the project site.
Regionally Manufactured Materials	For LEED for New Construction purposes, must be assembled as a finished product within a 500-mile radius of the project site. Assembly, as used for this LEED definition, does not include on-site assembly, erection or installation of finished components, as in structural steel, miscellaneous iron or systems furniture.
Retained Components	The portions of the finished ceilings, finished floors, full height walls and demountable partitions, interior doors and built-in case goods that existed in the prior condition and remained in the completed design.
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SHGC	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: the fraction of solar radiation admitted through a particular glazing

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SMACNA	Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning National Contractors Association
SRI	Solar Reflectance Index: the measure of a material's ability to reject solar heat, demonstrated by a temperature rise
Threatened Species	An animal or plant species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future and is designated as threatened by the government.
TSS	Total Suspended Solids: particles too small or light to be removed from a liquid via gravity settling
TP	Total Phosphorous: phosphates, polyphosphates, and orthophosphates in stormwater
TWA	Total Water Applied: the total amount of water used for irrigation, including potable and non-potable
USGBC	U.S. Green Building Council
VAV	Variable Air Volume: ventilation system configuration differentiated from Constant Air Volume
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds: potentially hazardous substances that includes offgases from other materials
ZEV	Zero Emission Vehicles: a California Air Resources Board designation for alternative-fuel vehicles

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