

Sustainable Sites

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A Quick Look: The Sustainable Sites Initiative Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009

The following table describes the SSI prerequisites and credits and highlights where similarities exist between SSI and LEED for New Construction and Major Renovation



1. Site Selection [21 possible points]: *Select locations to preserve existing resources and repair damaged systems*

SSI	Pts	Description	LEED®
P 1.1		Limit development of soils designated as prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide importance	SS:C1
P 1.2		Protect floodplain functions	SS:C1
P 1.3		Preserve wetlands	SS:C1
P 1.4		Preserve threatened or endangered species and their habitats	SS:C1
C 1.5	5-10	Select brownfields or greyfields for redevelopment	SS:C3
C 1.6	6	Select sites within existing communities	SS:C2
C 1.7	5	Select sites that encourage non-motorized transportation and use of public transit	SS:C4.1

2. Pre-Design Assessment & Planning [4 possible points]: *Plan for sustainability from the onset of the project*

P 2.1		Conduct a pre-design site assessment and explore opportunities for site sustainability	
P 2.2		Use an integrated site development process	
C 2.3	4	Engage users and other stakeholders in site design	

3. Site Design—Water [44 possible points]: *Protect and restore processes and systems associated with a site's hydrology*

P 3.1		Reduce potable water use for landscape irrigation by 50% from established baseline	WE:C1
C 3.2	2-5	Reduce potable water use for landscape irrigation by 75% or more from established baseline	WE:C1
C 3.3	3-8	Protect and restore riparian, wetland, and shoreline buffers	
C 3.4	2-5	Rehabilitate lost streams, wetlands, and shorelines	
C 3.5	5-10	Manage stormwater on site	SS:C6.1
C 3.6	3-9	Protect and enhance on-site water resources and receiving water quality	SS:C6.2
C 3.7	1-3	Design rainwater/stormwater features to provide a landscape amenity	
C 3.8	1-4	Maintain water features to conserve water and other resources	

4. Site Design—Soil and Vegetation [51 possible points]: *Protect and restore processes and systems associated with a site's soil and vegetation*

P 4.1		Control and manage known invasive plants found on site	
P 4.2		Use appropriate, non-invasive plants	
P 4.3		Create a soil management plan	
C 4.4	6	Minimize soil disturbance in design and construction	
C 4.5	5	Preserve all vegetation designated as special status	
C 4.6	3-8	Preserve or restore appropriate plant biomass on site	
C 4.7	1-4	Use native plants	
C 4.8	2-6	Preserve plant communities native to the ecoregion	
C 4.9	2-6	Restore plant communities native to the ecoregion	
C 4.10	2-4	Use vegetation to minimize building heating requirements	EA:C1
C 4.11	2-4	Use vegetation to minimize building cooling requirements	EA:C1
C 4.12	3-5	Reduce urban heat island effects	SS:C7.1-2
C 4.13	3	Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire	

5. Site Design—Materials Selection [36 possible points]: *Reuse/recycle existing materials and support sustainable production practices*

SSI	Pts	Description	LEED®
P 5.1		Eliminate the use of wood from threatened tree species	
C 5.2	1-4	Maintain on-site structures, hardscape, and landscape amenities	MR:C1.1
C 5.3	1-3	Design for deconstruction and disassembly	
C 5.4	2-4	Reuse salvaged materials and plants	MR:C3
C 5.5	2-4	Use recycled content materials	MR:C4
C 5.6	1-4	Use certified wood	MR:C7
C 5.7	2-6	Use regional materials	MR:C5
C 5.8	2	Use adhesives, sealants, paints and coatings with reduced VOC emissions	
C 5.9	3	Support sustainable practices in plant production	
C 5.10	3-6	Support sustainable practices in materials manufacturing	

6. Site Design—Human Health and Well-Being [32 possible points]: *Build strong communities and a sense of stewardship*

C 6.1	1-3	Promote equitable site development	
C 6.2	1-4	Promote equitable site use	
C 6.3	2-4	Promote sustainability awareness and education	
C 6.4	2-4	Protect and maintain unique cultural and historical places	
C 6.5	3	Provide for optimum site accessibility, safety, and wayfinding	
C 6.6	4-5	Provide opportunities for outdoor physical activity	
C 6.7	3-4	Provide views of vegetation and quiet outdoor spaces for mental restoration	
C 6.8	3	Provide outdoor spaces for social interaction	
C 6.9	2	Reduce light pollution	SS:C8

7. Construction [21 possible points]: *Minimize effects of construction-related activities*

P 7.1		Control and retain construction pollutants	SS:P1
P 7.2		Restore soils disturbed during construction	
C 7.3	2-8	Restore soils disturbed by previous development	
C 7.4	3-5	Divert construction and demolition materials from disposal	MR:C2
C 7.5	3-5	Reuse or recycle vegetation, rocks and soil generated during construction	
C 7.6	1-3	Minimize generation of greenhouse gas emissions and exposure to localized air pollutants during construction	

8. Operations & Maintenance [23 possible points]: *Maintain the site for long-term sustainability*

P 8.1		Plan for sustainable site maintenance	
P 8.2		Provide for storage and collection of recyclables	MR:P1
C 8.3	2-6	Recycle organic matter generated during site operations and maintenance	
C 8.4	1-4	Reduce outdoor energy consumption for all landscape and exterior operations	
C 8.5	2-3	Use renewable sources for landscape electricity needs	EA:C2, C6
C 8.6	1-2	Minimize exposure to environmental tobacco smoke	IEQ:P2
C 8.7	1-4	Minimize generation of greenhouse gases and exposure to localized air pollutants during landscape maintenance activities	
C 8.8	4	Reduce emissions and promote the use of fuel-efficient vehicles	SS:C4.3

9. Monitoring & Innovation [18 possible points]: *Reward exceptional performance and improve the body of knowledge on long-term sustainability*

C 9.1	10	Monitor performance of sustainable design practices	EA:P1
C 9.2	8	Innovation in site design	ID:C1

For more information:

Look for web links associated with this presentation at www.plandesignllc.com/profile-resources.php or in the discussion section of the AIA WI LinkedIn group.

Andy Albright, ASLA

Principal, Landscape Architect
Plandesign LLC
 (608) 318-1217
albright@plandesignllc.com

Betsy Powers, PE

Senior Civil Engineer
BT Squared
 (608) 216-7347
bpowers@btsquared.com