

October 24, 2016

OFCC & K-12 Customers
Architects/Engineers
Construction Managers

Dear OFCC Customer,

Since September 2007, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission has maintained a commitment to design and construct energy efficient and environmentally friendly schools for our K-12 customers. The Commission's requirement for schools constructed with state dollars is to achieve Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification. This commitment to LEED for Schools provides healthy, high performing schools that allow the districts to save future operation and maintenance dollars.

Currently, the OFCC has almost 400 schools registered or certified through Version 2 and Version 3 of the USGBC's LEED for Schools rating systems. Since the beginning of this initiative, our project teams have certified 273 schools across Ohio ranging from Certified to Platinum levels.

As you are aware, the US Green Building Council periodically updates the LEED rating systems in order to stay current with building codes and best practices. As such, the LEED for Schools Version 3, which has been our design standard, will no longer be available after October 31, 2016. New projects proceeding after that date will need to be registered in LEED Version 4 – LEED for Schools.

The new Version 4 rating system was reviewed to ensure the sustainability goals of the Commission's K-12 schools program would still be met under this updated system. We feel that with the experience our project teams have, a Silver certification level will still be attainable under Version 4. The OFCC will be proceeding with a few pilot projects under Version 4 and these projects will have assistance from the OFCC and GBCI. We will use these pilot projects to identify any issues or concerns in order to ease the way for other projects to follow. If you are interested in working on a pilot project and have a new school, please let me know.

There are a number of significant changes with Version 4 and our project teams will need to educate themselves on these changes. As such, I will be hosting round table discussions on Version 4 categories in the upcoming couple of months. If there is enough interest expressed in various regions, forums may be held in locations across the state. More information on these sessions will be coming out soon. In the meantime, please feel free to email me any questions or concerns you may have.

I have taken steps to register all of the new projects that I am aware of that have or will have funding in 2016/early 2017. (I have also registered projects that have a good chance of securing funding at the November ballot.) Once an architect is under contract, I will transfer the project to them for management. If you are uncertain about your project, please contact me before proceeding to register it at lisa.laney@ofcc.ohio.gov and I will let you know if I have it or not.

I appreciate your time and attention and I look forward to working with you on your sustainable schools and facilities.

Kind Regards,

Lisa A. Laney

Lisa A. Laney, LEEP AP, BD+C
Sustainability Administrator