



December 2008

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Understanding LEED®: Lighting and Electrical Distribution Equipment Applicability

"Green" buildings, sustainable architecture, and environmentally responsible design - we have all heard these terms. But what do these terms mean to you - that this project is entertaining radical ideas at higher costs? Not any more. The term "green" design is now used to describe what is becoming either a standard or a priority for building owners. It is more mainstream, with an estimated \$12 billion in efficient and lower impact building products and services in 2007, and an estimated \$60 billion by 2010.

The paradigm of how to construct a project and be part of the community has shifted. Many of today's design standards incorporate significant participation in environmentally sensitive building practices; therefore, the incremental up-front costs of these practices adds only minor to no additional cost, and in some cases are less. For those with higher up-front costs, the life cycle costs justify the increased amount spent with increased energy efficiency, reduced waste, and improved indoor air quality.



There are several organizations currently providing a mechanism for certifying a "green" building. Energy STAR®, Green Globes, and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED® program are some of those available. The LEED® program is currently the most predominant in the U.S., and this article will go into detail on one particular standard, LEED® for New Construction and Major Renovations (LEED®-NC).

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When Good Designs Go Wrong



The lighting design industry has the GE Edison Awards, the IIDA Awards, and the Lumen Awards, just to name a few. Most designers are happy to tell you about their best projects, but few will tell you about their worst. What happens when a good design goes wrong? "Wrong" can mean so many things when it comes to lighting design: Value engineering, incorrect lamping, unapproved fixture substitutions, last minute architectural changes such as color changes, ceiling height changes, finish changes, walls going up where they're not supposed to, etc. Here are some lighting designers' accounts of their good designs gone wrong.

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Energy-Saving Methods, Applications and Strategies for Lighting

To save or not to save is no longer the question; trying to convince someone that saving energy is a good idea is no longer the challenge. What everyone wants to know is what is the best way and where to start.

Lighting is where to start because it requires a low investment cost to save energy when compared to HVAC and many other energy-saving options available within a facility. It also has a fast return on investment (ROI) and short payback period.



To understand the best way to save energy, you need to understand the options available to you depending on the status of your existing facilities. There are three main categories for formulating energy-saving strategies: new construction, existing facilities less than 7 years old, and existing facilities 7 years old or more. Let's review the options and opportunities available.

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