



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GARCETTI, WEISS WIN SPEEDIER PROCESS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENTS

BUILDINGS THAT MEET ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS WILL GET PRIORITY PLAN-CHECK

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a program today that would expedite the plan-check process for buildings that meet the “silver” standard in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines. LEED standards, established by the US Green Building Council, outline steps that developers can take during construction and maintenance that will make their buildings more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient.

“Construction, maintenance, and operation of buildings consumes many of our natural resources, and takes a heavy toll on the local and worldwide environment” said Garcetti, who led the charge in 2003 to ensure that all municipally constructed buildings in Los Angeles were LEED Certified. “Los Angeles has reduced its impact with well-thought out designs, sustainable products and emerging technologies. Today’s action will give the private sector a strong incentive to join the city at the forefront of building green.”

“By changing designs to maximize energy efficiency, builders can save money on energy costs and help preserve the environment,” said Weiss. “Today’s action gives them another incentive to use environmentally friendly materials, and I hope they will take advantage of it.”

LEED guidelines are based on criteria that include using green power, employing water-efficient landscaping, and using recycled materials during construction. Each criterion is matched with a certain number of credits, and the total number of credits earned by a building determines which of the four LEED designations a particular structure earns. The four levels of LEED certification are LEED certified, silver standard, gold standard, and platinum standard.

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