

LEED and Electrical Project Management

1. **What is LEED?** Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a certification and rating system for the greenness of a building. From start to finish of a construction project, followed by the long-range habitation of that space, LEED provides the necessary criteria for green design, construction and sustainability.
2. **How does LEED work?** Developed in 2000 by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED rates buildings through a system of points and levels.
 - a. For example, such features as a light-colored concrete parking lot and adjacent bike racks outside the building will earn points for that property.
 - b. A property's total number of points depends on the amount of green efficiency overall. These points determine a LEED-certified level, be this silver, gold or platinum.
 - c. With basic requirements for each level, LEED guides compliant buildings on where and how to earn additional points to level up.
3. **What is the relationship between LEED and electrical project management?** A LEED-certified building is a more efficient building overall. Of the many areas of performance that LEED monitors, one is "Energy & Atmosphere." Success in this area begins with the electrical specifications that go into the building, including LEED-approved lighting control systems than can often be intricate and detailed.
 - a. Occupancy sensors-- automatically turning lights on and off when people enter and exit a room-- can yield LEED points toward a higher certification level. The right electrical contractor or project manager will see to this from the start.
 - b. A daylight harvesting system will dim and/or shut off lights based on the time of day and the amount of sunlight in a room. This too is an important LEED-certified matter for a project manager to be knowledgeable of and to oversee.
 - c. As with all aspects of construction, electrical contractors must furnish information to inspectors for final approvals and commissions. Because LEED certifications often require more data than normal, it's crucial for project managers to be prepared in this regard.
 - d. Waste on LEED jobs must be properly separated for recycling and disposal, including all electrical materials. This falls under a project manager's responsibility.
 - e. One LEED distinction for electrical work: While additional LEED points can be earned for building materials originating within 500 miles of a site, electrical contractors are exempt from this clause. This means the best and most suitable electrical materials can be LEED-certified just the same, regardless of where they are made.
4. **Where does Miller Electric stand?** Several of Miller Electric's past and current projects involve LEED-based specifications. Today, with an increasing number of existing structures working to become LEED certified, notably government buildings, LEED-based projects are in demand.
 - a. Such work requires the expertise and experience on which Miller prides itself.
 - b. While electrical contracting tends to be a more straightforward and even less-demanding category for LEED certification than do other such areas as design, storage and waste, Miller recognizes the importance of uniform standards and organization.
 - c. Given LEED parameters, Miller holds the knowledge to complete proper electrical jobs. For more on Miller's LEED-related services, please comment below or contact us directly.