

City of Signal Hill Policy & Procedure
Municipal Green Building Policy

DATE: May 15, 2012

REVISION NO.:

APPROVED: 

DEPARTMENT: Administration

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and leadership in the development of sustainable green building practices by:

- A. Promoting conscientious environmental practices.
- B. Encouraging development that improves energy and resource efficiency.
- C. Conservation of natural resources.
- D. Developing cost-effective strategies.
- E. Minimizing environmental impacts.
- F. Ensuring the public welfare, health and safety.

II. Definitions

- A. Building: As defined under SHMC 20.04.090.
- B. CALGreen Code: California Green Building Standards Code, in short known as the CALGreen Code.
- C. Green Building: Sustainable building and design practices which are environmentally conscious through cost efficient and energy saving measures.
- D. LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; a nationally recognized program developed by the US Green Building Council
- E. LEED Rating System: A rating system developed by the USGBC based on 100 points that review the five categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, plus an additional 6 points for Innovation in Design and an additional 4 points for Regional Priority. The buildings can qualify under four certification categories:
 1. Certified: 40–49 points
 2. Silver: 50–59 points
 3. Gold: 60–79 points
 4. Platinum: 80 points and above
- F. USGBC: United States Green Building Council; formed in 1993 as a national non-profit to accelerate the adoption of green building practices, technologies, policies, and standards.

III. Policy

- A. The City shall incorporate USGBC green building standards in the construction of municipal buildings as follows:
 - i. All new buildings greater than 2,000 square feet.
 - ii. All new additions exceeding 50% or more of a building's total square footage.
 - iii. New construction will strive for a USGBC LEED Certification Silver level rating.
 - iv. The City Council may allow exceptions to this policy on a case by case basis.
- B. The City shall encourage and provide guidance to encourage the utilization of green building practices in the private sector.
 - i. The City will promote the application of USGBC LEED standards and rating system.
- C. All projects shall comply with the CALGreen Code.

IV. Implementation

- A. The City will ensure the management and implementation of the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- B. Application of the policy shall become effective on the date it is adopted by the City Council.