



## LEED Incentive Program



As an incentive to encourage Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ certification, the Planning & Development Services Code Enforcement Plan Review Section will begin offering Quick Start service to any project which has registered for LEED certification regardless of construction cost.

Currently, the Quick Start plan review option is available only to projects that have submitted complete plans and have an estimated construction cost of \$1M or more. By opting to pay an additional fee of 65% of the permit cost, the final plan review is completed in a face to face conference-like meeting with the reviewers, designers and owners present. The Quick Start program has been a popular option as it generally eliminates at least one plan resubmittal.

For the review participants will need to submit:

- A Quick Start Application
- The project registration receipt from the US Green Building Council (USGBC)
- The checklist of points the building is designed to achieve
- The required Quick Start fee (65% of building permit)

LEED projects which achieve certification will also qualify for a graduated rebate of the Quick Start fees. The rebate is based on the level of achievement - certified, silver, gold or platinum.

The levels of achievement and rebates are as follows:

- Platinum Level – 100%
- Gold Level – 75%
- Silver Level – 50%
- Minimum Level – 25%

After construction, when LEED certification is achieved, the applicant must present the certificate from USGBC to confirm the level of achievement.

**Application for the rebate must be made within 90 days of the date of final certification.**

We are consistently meeting our goal of having ninety percent of commercial plan reviews completed within a record setting eleven days; however the elimination of another eleven day cycle can save interim financing and other costs for the builder. Allowing broader access to the program and rebating a portion of the additional charges are a significant benefit to those who undertake the worthy goal of LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ certification.

For further information please contact Mr. Earl Greer at (832) 394-9200 or via email at [earl.greer@houstontx.gov](mailto:earl.greer@houstontx.gov).