**LEED-LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a certification system for buildings and development projects in the United States. It is based on a comprehensive and sustainable approach to designing, building and operating buildings. LEED encourages a variety of environmentally sound practices and qualities in the design, construction and maintenance of buildings.

**What is LEED?**

LEED is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to help building professionals and owners design and construct environmentally sustainable buildings. It is a voluntary, market-driven process that provides a framework for assessing a building’s environmental performance.

**What is LEED certification?**

LEED certification is an assessment of a building’s environmental performance. It is awarded based on a variety of factors, including energy and water efficiency, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design.

**What are the benefits of LEED certification?**

LEED certification has many benefits, including:

- Increased property value
- Reduced operating costs
- Improved indoor air quality
- Enhanced occupant health and comfort
- Increased employee productivity
- Attraction of tenants and investors
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Increased energy efficiency
- Reduced water use
- Improved resource management
- Reduced waste
- Improved local economies

**Clemson University Energy Awareness**

Clemson University is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving occupant health and well-being. The university has a LEED gold certified building that serves as a model for sustainable design and construction.

**LEED Gold certified building**

The bio-science and life sciences building at Clemson University is LEED Gold certified. This building is designed to meet LEED standards for energy and water efficiency, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design.

**Sustainable features**

- **Water efficiency:** Low flow plumbing fixtures and systems, rainwater harvesting, and greywater reuse systems.
- **Energy efficiency:** High-performance windows, insulation, and lighting.
- **Indoor environmental quality:** Low-emitting materials and products, indoor air quality monitoring.
- **Materials and resources:** Recycled materials, local materials, and sustainable wood.

**Indoor Environmental Quality**

- **Ventilation:** Fresh air delivery and exhaust systems.
- **Lighting:** Daylighting, occupancy sensors, and automated lighting.
- **Comfort:** Temperature control, humidity control, and noise reduction.

**Benefits of LEED certification**

- **Energy savings:** LEED certified buildings use 25% less energy than non-certified buildings.
- **Water savings:** LEED certified buildings use 30% less water than non-certified buildings.
- **Improved indoor air quality:** LEED certified buildings have better indoor air quality and reduced indoor pollutants.
- **Improved occupant health and well-being:** LEED certified buildings have better indoor air quality and reduced indoor pollutants.

**Conclusion**

LEED certification is a valuable tool for promoting sustainable building practices. By meeting the LEED standards, buildings can reduce their environmental impact, improve occupant health and well-being, and save money on energy and water bills.