

Bellingham gets on the LEED bandwagon by Michael Burnham, Sustainable Industries Journal, July 1, 2005

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The City of Bellingham in May adopted the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED-Silver standard for publicly funded buildings.

The city's ordinance requires all new or renovated buildings larger than 5,000 square feet to meet USGBC's standard, which takes into account energy-efficient lighting, heating, cooling and landscaping systems, as well as other building elements. Affected buildings must also receive the majority of their funding from the city.

Efforts are already underway to register public and private buildings in Bellingham for certification under one of the council's four LEED construction standards: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Western Washington University is seeking a LEED-Certified rating for its 98,000-square-foot Wade King Student Recreation Center, which was completed in late 2003, said Tim Wynn, the university's facilities manager.



Bellingham joins the City of Seattle and 27 other municipalities that have adopted LEED standards, according to USGBC.

In April, Washington became the first state in the nation to adopt the LEED-Silver standard for publicly funded buildings.