



A better environment inside and out.™

Solar, Safety and Security Window Films
LEED Credits

Earning LEED credits using Solar Gard® window film

As you pursue LEED certification through the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), you will be exploring many options to meet your goals. Solar Gard window film is a proven energy saving product that can directly help you achieve LEED Credits. Below are six categories within the standard where solar control window film can be applied towards meeting the criteria for earning LEED credits.

All buildings, new and existing, applying for LEED certification must meet the EPA ENERGY STAR® rating of at least 60. Certification for minimum energy performance requires that building electricity bills, cost, and usage be provided before improvements are made and that for a given building type and function, specific energy reduction goals must be met according to the guidelines for the EPA ENERGY STAR® rating.

The energy saving benefits of window film can help companies to achieve the initial rating of 60, and it also can provide additional LEED credits once the baselines are met. Solar energy saving window film is covered by the LEED for Existing Buildings Certification. Details can be found in the USGBC LEED for Existing Buildings Reference Guide, version 2.0 and 3.0, available through the USGBC website (<http://www.usgbc.org>).

How window film earns LEED credits:

1 Energy performance credits

Buildings that exceed the EPA ENERGY STAR® rating of 60 required for certification can receive up to 10 LEED credits through additional energy efficiency improvements. Table 1 below shows the LEED points that can be earned for an existing building based on additional energy efficiency improvements. Window film alone can provide from one to four LEED points in energy efficiency improvements, depending on the environment and the film installed.

2 Credit for light pollution reduction

Light pollution reduction, also known as “Light Trespass”, is covered by a credit under the “Sustainable Sites” goal. “Light Trespassing” occurs when lighting used within the building is visible at certain levels in the surrounding external environment. To qualify for this LEED credit, most of the internal light must fall within the building. Luminosity measurements are taken outdoors, with all lights off, and again with all the lights on. A LEED credit is achieved if the outdoor illumination level does not increase more than 10% than levels with the “lights on.”

Installing solar control window film will result in a lower amount of visible light transmission (VLT) through the windows. Window films have varying degrees of visible light transmission, and films with lower VLT ratings will greatly reduce light trespass from the building. When choosing a film, you can consider the amount of likely light trespass in advance and select specific films with a given target in mind. For example, Stainless Steel 50 can cut light trespass from a window in half.

3 Glare reduction credit

Under the Environmental Quality category, a credit can be achieved for “providing for glare control features for all windows where direct penetration of sunlight would interfere with normal occupant activities”. This is a goal that works in conjunction with the light pollution requirement in Sustainable Sites Credit for “light trespass”. This requirement can be met by applying window films with a VLT low enough to meet occupant requirements for glare-free activity. For example, Stainless Steel 50, which reduces light trespass, will have the added benefit of glare reduction. Applying this film can eliminate unwanted glare on computer screens and maintain an internal glare free environment, allowing you to pursue both “light trespass and glare reduction” credits in a single application.

Energy usage baseline %	10	71	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	85	87	89	91	93	95
LEED points earned	Required	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Table 1. LEED points earned through energy efficiency improvements