

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RATING SYSTEM COMPARISON

With the emergence of health as a driver in planning, design, construction, and operations, a handful of building rating systems have begun to address and measure wellness-promoting features and strategies. This graphic highlights how LEED, the Living Building Challenge, WELL, and Fitwel compare on a variety of health-related priorities.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RATING CATEGORIES

RATING SYSTEMS

LEED v4 BD+C

LEED Pilot Credits

WELL v1 May-16

Living Building Challenge (LBC) 3.1

Fitwel v1

HOW THEY ADDRESS HEALTH CATEGORIES

- ☒ Covered in detail
- ☐ Covered, but not in great detail
- ☐ Addressed, but leaves out some aspects
- ☐ Not Covered
- ✓ Includes onsite performance measurements
- ◆ Precondition or prerequisite
- 3,* See footnote for more information

LOCATION & SITE

VERTICAL

Health has always been a core component of a truly sustainable building project. As the connection between health and the built environment broadens to areas not covered by early versions of LEED, the need for a metric that addresses these qualities in a more comprehensive manner has become necessary.

HORIZONTAL

It is possible to have a LEED-certified building that lacks onsite greenspace, basic walkability, or public transportation access. WELL similarly emphasizes the building itself and focuses less on the importance of neighborhood and connectivity. The Living Building Challenge, in contrast, has required imperatives covering car-free living, onsite agriculture, and biophilia. Fitwel has a big focus on active design.



BUILDING

	LEED v4	LEED Pilot	Well v1	LBC 3.1	Fitwel v1
Active Design		1	◆	◆	
Biophilia			◆	◆	2
On-site Food Options		3	◆ 4	◆ 5	6
Materials Specification <i>Life Cycle Health Impact</i>		7		◆	
Daylight			✓	◆ 8	9
Interior Light Quality			◆		
Natural Ventilation				◆	
Thermal Comfort			◆	10	
Air Quality <i>VOCs, Flush Out, Testing, etc.</i>	◆ <i>testing optional</i>		◆ ✓ 11	◆	12
Drinking Water Quality			◆ ✓		
Acoustics	◆ 13 <i>for schools</i>	14	◆ ✓ 15		
Mental Health		16			17
Ergonomics/ Adjustable Furniture		18	◆		19



LOCATION & SITE

	LEED v4	LEED Pilot	Well v1	LBC 3.1	Fitwel v1
Walkability	20	21	22	◆ 23	
Public Transportation Access					24
Proximity to Green Space					
Onsite Green Space Creation					25
Proximity to Health Food Options	*			★	26
Services and Employment Access				27	
Safety		28			29
Resilient Community		30	★	31	32



OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

	LEED v4	LEED Pilot	Well v1	LBC 3.1	Fitwel v1
Ongoing IAQ Management	*	33	✓	34	
Healthy Behavior Promotion		35			

RATING SYSTEM MECHANICS

	LEED v4	LEED Pilot	Well v1	LBC 3.1	Fitwel v1
Third Party Certified 36	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Certification Costs	Medium		High	Medium	Low 37
Recertification	None*		Every 2 Years	None	None 38
Number of Health-Related Prerequisites	2		37 39	All	None
Market Maturity	High		Medium	Medium	Low 40
General Environmental Benefit 41	Comprehensive ◆			Comprehensive ◆ ✓	

FOOTNOTES

** Included in other LEED rating systems (e.g. LEED-ND or LEED-EBOM)*

1. *Addressed in Innovation: Design for active occupants, focuses mainly on staircase use, but also includes inclusion of exercise equipment and an exercise room.*
2. *Biophilia is incorporated through vegetated outdoor amenity spaces accessible to occupants.*
3. *Addressed as on site food production in pilot credit SSpc82: Local Food Production, dealing with onsite agriculture only, not food served onsite.*
4. *WELL includes both onsite agriculture and food served onsite.*
5. *LBC includes onsite agriculture only, not food served onsite.*
6. *FitWel includes both onsite agriculture and food served onsite.*
7. *MRpc109: Building Material Human Hazard & Exposure Assessment, only required to use at least 5 different permanently installed products from at least two different manufacturers with validated hazard assessment and exposure assessments for each substance.*
8. *Not Quantified.*
9. *Only daylight consideration is to provide “majority” of workspaces with ample daylight and shades.*
10. *LBC requires operable windows.*
11. *WELL requires a far greater degree of IAQ measures as preconditions, including air testing, VOC reductions, air filtration, moisture, microbe, and mold control, healthy entrance, and a green cleaning protocol. WELL also includes additional optimizations including outdoor air quality monitoring and feedback, leakage testeng, dedicated outdoor air systems, and advanced air purification.*
12. *IAQ Management best practices are incorporated. No consideration for testing or ongoing IAQ monitoring or outdoor AQ monitoring.*
13. *Credit addresses only interior noise reduction, however, the prerequisite for Schools addresses exterior noise reduction.*
14. *EQpc57: Enhanced acoustical performance – exterior noise control, addresses only exterior noise reduction, but combined with the v4 credit, this is a comprehensive approach to acoustics management, equivalent with WELL’s approach.*
15. *Only exterior noise intrusion is a precondition. The other components are optimizations.*
16. *Somewhat addressed in IPpc108: Integrative Process for Health Promotion, pilot credit.*
17. *Mental health components include outdoor healing or therapeutic spaces, quiet spaces for respite, and other spaces available for occupants to leave work stations. Nothing included in terms of operational or behavioral aspects.*
18. *EQpc44: Ergonomics approach for computer users, only addresses computer users.*
19. *Active Workstations included, but not necessarily adjustable.*
20. *Walkability is addressed through community connectivity and alternative transportation credits.*
21. *Addressed in Innovation: Walkable project site credit.*
22. *WalkScore is covered along with access to pedestrian amenities.*
23. *Based primarily on the Human Scale and Humane Places imperative.*
24. *Includes provisions for encouraging use of bikes, hybrid/alt-fuel vehicles, and walking. Doesn’t have the specificity of quality transit that LEED does.*
25. *Quantities of greenspace not specified.*
26. *The focus of this rating system is on-site food options (e.g. farmer’s market) rather than proximity to health food options.*
27. *Somewhat addressed through transect requirements.*
28. *Addressed in IPpc93: Prevention through Design, covering injury prevention, but not neighborhood safety.*
29. *Some emergency procedural aspects included.*
30. *Addressed fully in IPpc98 – Assessment and Planning for Resilience, IPpc99 – Design for Enhanced Resilience, and IPpc100 – Passive Survivability and Functionality During Emergencies.*
31. *Credit for being NZE (although this doesn’t guarantee islanding). Also, addressed indirectly through passive design and integration of natural systems.*
32. *This rating system is currently in pilot phase, therefore there is no published cost information. The expected release date for public projects is in 2017.*
33. *Minimally addressed in Innovation: LEED O+M Starter Kit.*
34. *Requires 9-month test (not ongoing).*
35. *Addressed in Innovation: Integrated Process for Health Promotion.*
36. *Defined as certification body that is independent of the rating system administrator and consultant.*
37. *\$500 to register and \$6,000 to certify; negotiable depending on size of portfolio.*
38. *Recertification may be an option when the rating system is released for public use. Currently, no recertification process.*
39. *WELL has 41 Prerequisites (called “preconditions”), but we’ve excluded the following as only tangentially health and wellness related.*
 - *ADA accessible design standard*
 - *Hand washing*
 - *Integrated design*
 - *Beauty and design 1*
40. *The expected release date for public projects is in 2017.*
41. *Including carbon footprint, air and water quality, resource management, etc. Many will argue that a truly healthy building uses less fossil fuel, for example, which contributes to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, which has measurable health impacts on communities (albeit not immediate and local health impacts).*