

## **Expedited Review Process for LEED Certified Projects**

The city of Pearland is committed to encouraging green developments. In an effort to encourage and recognize builders that embrace the green principles, the city of Pearland is proposing an expedited review process for all projects that meet silver or higher of LEED certification.

### **About Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification System<sup>1</sup>:**

The U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED green building certification program is an internationally recognized program that encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through a suite of rating systems that recognize projects that implement strategies for better environmental and health performance.

The LEED green building certification system is the preeminent program for rating the design, construction and operation of green buildings. By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

### **Eligibility:**

Project applying for silver or higher level of LEED rating will be eligible.

### **Expedited Process:**

- a. Staff review time will be reduced to one week (7 calendar days) from two weeks.
- b. A staff member will be designated to act as the City's project manager for that specific project to assist in the permitting processes, from pre-development to Certificate of Occupancy.
- c. A special pre-development meeting will be scheduled for such projects, outside of the scheduled times, if required.
- d. A special Design Review Committee meeting will be scheduled for the project with reviewers from the city and the applicant's team, to review staff's preliminary comments.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from the U.S. Green Building Council's website – [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)