

Living Building Challenge™ One Pager

The Living Building and Living Community Challenges were developed by the [International Living Future Institute](#) to offer sustainable green building and infrastructure solutions to neighborhoods and cities. The Challenges are comprised of seven performance categories or Petals. Performance Categories: Place, Water, Energy, Health & Happiness, Materials, Equity, and Beauty.

The performance categories (Petals) are subdivided into a total of twenty Imperatives that can be applied to new and existing buildings and community-scale projects. Twenty Imperatives: 1- Limits to Growth, 2- Urban Agriculture, 3- Habitat Exchange, 4- Car Free Living, 5- Net Positive Water, 6- net Positive Energy, 7- Civilized Environment, 8- Healthy Interior Environment, 9- Biophilic Environment, 10- Red List, 11- Embodied Carbon Footprint, 12- Responsible Industry, 13- Living Economy Sourcing, 14- Net Positive Waste, 15- Human Scale + Humane Places, 16- Universal Access to Nature & Place, 17- Equitable Investments, 18- JUST Organizations, 19- Beauty + Spirt, 20- Inspiration + Education

LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE

The Living Building Challenge™ is a building certification program comprised of 3 certification levels - Living Building Certification, Petal Recognition Certification, and Net Zero Energy Building.

Certification Levels

- 1- Living Building Certification
 - a. Highest certification
 - b. Demonstrates that the built environment helps restore the natural environment

- 2- Petal Recognition Certification
 - a. Second highest certification
 - b. Satisfies the requirements of **three or more** performance categories (Petals), including at least **one** of the following: Water, Energy or Materials

- 3- *Net Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Certification - One hundred percent of the building's energy needs on a net annual basis must be supplied by on-site renewable energy; no combustion is allowed.
 - a. Building projects must achieve the **Energy** performance category (Petal) in addition to a subset of requirements within the **Place** and **Beauty** performance categories
 - i. Net Positive Energy is the primary focus of NZEB Certification. Energy bills and metering is third party reviewed to ensure actual net zero performance

Certification Process

- 1- Registration
- 2- Documentation + Operation
- 3- Audit + Certification

*Net Zero Energy Building Certification follows a different process.

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LIVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

The Living Community Challenge™ is a community-scale certification that provides a high level review process from master planning process to construction to operation.

Certification Levels

- 1- Living Community Certification
 - a. Highest certification level
 - b. A masterplan or built project must meet all twenty Imperatives across all **seven performance categories** (Petals) to earn Living Community Certification

- 2- Petal Community Certification
 - a. Community must meet all the Imperatives of **three performance categories** (Petals); one must be from Water, Energy or Materials to earn Living Community Petal Certification

Two stages of Compliance or Certification

1. Living Community Masterplan Compliance
 - a. The first stage toward Living Community Certification
 - b. Pre-construction phase
 - c. Compliance valid for three years

2. Living Community Challenge Certification
 - a. Construction phase must be completed and have a minimum of twelve months of continuous operation in order to apply for Petal or Living Community
 - b. All buildings owned or developed by the community must meet the Living Building Challenge for the project to earn full Living Community Certification status
 - c. Certification based on actual performance
 - d. Five pilot cities – DC, San Francisco, Seattle, UniverCity (Vancouver, BC), Bend (OR)

RESOURCES AND WEBINARS

[NZEB Certification Documentation Requirements](#)

[Living Building Challenge](#)

[Living Community Challenge](#)

[Living Building Challenge Five Part Materials Workshop Series](#) – Webinar Series, May 19 – Dec. 10, 2015

[Introduction to the Materials Petal](#) – Webinar, May 19, 2015

[Understanding the Living Building Challenge Workshop](#) – Webinar Series, June 15 - June 25, 2015

[Introduction to the Energy Petal](#) – Webinar, July 13, 2015

[Understanding the Living Building Challenge Workshop](#) – Webinar Series, Sept. 22 – Oct. 1, 2015

[Net Positive Material Health](#) – Webinar, Oct. 5, 2015

[Living Building Challenge: Framework for Affordable Housing](#)

[Living Community Challenge](#)