

PRACTICE EXAM 7: LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE SIMULATION (100 QUESTIONS)

This practice exam contains 100 multiple-choice questions modeled on the LEED Green Associate (v5) exam administered by GBCI. The official exam has a 2-hour time limit and requires a score of 170 out of 200 to pass. Select the single best answer for each question. Answers and full explanations follow the exam.

1. What is the correct definition of a LEED prerequisite?

- A. An optional strategy that earns points toward certification
- B. A bonus strategy available only at the Platinum tier
- C. A credit exclusive to the Energy and Atmosphere category
- D. A mandatory requirement that earns no points but must be met

2. What does the term 'benchmarking' refer to in a LEED context?

- A. A one-time design-phase energy calculation
- B. Tracking a building's actual measured performance over time
- C. The process of verifying installed system design intent
- D. A refrigerant classification method

3. What does 'embodied carbon' specifically refer to?

- A. Emissions associated with material extraction, manufacturing, and construction
- B. Emissions produced continuously by a building's daily operation
- C. Emissions produced exclusively by refrigerant leaks
- D. Emissions associated only with a building's demolition phase

4. What does the term 'charrette' mean in the integrative process context?

- A. A final walkthrough before occupancy
- B. A formal certification review meeting
- C. An intensive, collaborative design workshop held early in a project
- D. A written summary of construction defects

5. What is the correct definition of 'Global Warming Potential' (GWP)?

- A. A refrigerant's total physical volume in a system
- B. A measure of a substance's ozone depletion risk exclusively
- C. A measure of a substance's heat-trapping effect relative to CO₂
- D. A metric used exclusively for water efficiency calculations

6. What does 'VMT' stand for in a Location and Transportation context?

- A. Verified Material Testing
- B. Vehicle Miles Traveled
- C. Ventilation Monitoring Threshold
- D. Variable Metering Total

7. What is the correct definition of 'hydrozoning'?

- A. Grouping plants by similar water needs within a landscape
- B. A chemical treatment process for cooling tower water
- C. A refrigerant classification unrelated to landscaping
- D. A certification level specific to Water Efficiency

8. What does the term 'leverage point' mean in the context of building design?

- A. The final inspection point before occupancy

- B. A structural connection point in the building frame
- C. A required financial disclosure in project documentation
- D. A place where a small intervention produces disproportionate improvement

9. What is the correct definition of a Health Product Declaration (HPD)?

- A. A refrigerant leak detection report
- B. A disclosure of a product's chemical ingredients and health hazards
- C. A record of a building's occupant satisfaction survey
- D. A disclosure of a product's global warming potential

10. What does 'Basis of Design' (BOD) refer to?

- A. The owner's stated budget ceiling alone
- B. A record of construction change orders
- C. The final commissioning report
- D. The design team's technical approach to meeting the OPR

11. What is the correct definition of 'systems thinking'?

- A. Understanding a building as a network of interconnected parts
- B. Focusing analysis on a single isolated building component
- C. A term specific only to refrigerant management
- D. A financial accounting method used in LEED certification

12. What does the term 'grid-interactive' describe in an Energy and Atmosphere context?

- A. A building disconnected entirely from the utility grid
- B. A building using only on-site renewable generation
- C. A building actively coordinating operation with utility grid conditions
- D. A building exempt from all electrical code requirements

13. What is the correct definition of 'life-cycle cost analysis' (LCCA)?

- A. A calculation of only a building's construction budget
- B. A method for calculating refrigerant charge
- C. A metric used exclusively for daylighting design
- D. Totaling a building's costs across its full useful life

14. What does 'light trespass' refer to?

- A. Unauthorized entry onto a construction site at night
- B. Artificial light extending beyond its intended target area
- C. A daylighting deficiency within occupied interior spaces
- D. A violation of ASHRAE 90.1 lighting power density limits

15. What is the correct definition of 'operational carbon'?

- A. Emissions released once, entirely before a building is occupied
- B. Emissions associated exclusively with material manufacturing
- C. Emissions accumulating continuously over a building's years of operation
- D. Emissions associated exclusively with construction waste disposal

16. What does the term 'triple bottom line' refer to?

- A. A framework evaluating people, planet, and profit together
- B. A financial metric measuring only construction cost overruns
- C. A three-tiered LEED certification scoring system
- D. A refrigerant compliance framework specific to Energy and Atmosphere

17. What is the correct definition of a 'power purchase agreement' (PPA)?

- A. A long-term contract to buy electricity from a specific renewable facility
- B. A one-time payment covering a building's total annual energy use
- C. A government subsidy program for on-site solar installation
- D. A warranty covering mechanical equipment failure

18. What does 'submetering' refer to in a Water Efficiency context?

- A. Installing a single meter covering an entire building's total use
- B. Tracking water use of distinct subsystems separately from the whole-building total
- C. A one-time water quality test performed at handoff
- D. A metering requirement unique to cooling towers specifically

19. What is the correct definition of a 'negative feedback loop'?

- A. A loop that always produces an undesirable outcome
- B. A loop exclusive to refrigerant management systems
- C. A loop that amplifies and accelerates an original change
- D. A loop that counteracts change, restoring a system toward equilibrium

20. What does the term 'biophilic design' refer to?

- A. A structural design method for seismic resistance
- B. A refrigerant selection criterion
- C. Incorporating natural elements and patterns into the built environment
- D. A water treatment process for graywater systems

21. What is the correct definition of a 'brownfield' site?

- A. A site with identified soil or groundwater contamination

- B. A site with protected wetland habitat
- C. A site located within a designated floodplain
- D. A site with prime agricultural farmland

22. What does 'peak load' refer to in an Energy and Atmosphere context?

- A. A building's total annual energy consumption
- B. The maximum heating or cooling demand equipment must be sized to meet
- C. The minimum acceptable ventilation rate under ASHRAE 62.1
- D. A refrigerant's maximum allowable charge

23. What is the correct definition of 'graywater'?

- A. Untreated water drawn directly from a natural stream
- B. Raw groundwater from an on-site well
- C. Discharge from an open-loop geothermal system
- D. Lightly contaminated water from sinks, showers, and laundry

24. What does the term 'ozone depletion potential' (ODP) measure?

- A. A substance's capacity to break down stratospheric ozone
- B. A substance's heat-trapping effect relative to CO₂
- C. A building's total daylighting performance
- D. A refrigerant's total physical charge volume

25. What is the correct definition of 'Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment' (WBLCA)?

- A. A single test of one material's chemical content
- B. A refrigerant leakage calculation method
- C. An assessment spanning material production through end-of-life stages
- D. A one-time review limited to construction-phase waste

26. What does 'Compact and Connected Development' refer to?

- A. A single fixed requirement with no alternative pathways
- B. A prerequisite exclusive to LEED Homes projects
- C. A refrigerant management credit unrelated to site location
- D. A consolidated credit rewarding density, transit access, and walkability

27. What is the correct definition of 'quality views' as an Occupant Experience component?

- A. A metric measuring exterior building aesthetics exclusively
- B. Direct sightlines to the outdoors from regularly occupied spaces
- C. A structural engineering inspection requirement
- D. A measure of a project's total glazing area exclusively

28. What does the term 'decarbonization roadmap' refer to?

- A. A single design-phase energy model with no ongoing component
- B. A GBCI-issued document unrelated to project-specific planning
- C. A sequenced set of strategies phased across a building's operating life
- D. A one-time refrigerant replacement schedule only

29. What is the correct definition of 'Enhanced Commissioning' relative to 'Fundamental Commissioning'?

- A. A prerequisite identical in scope to the mandatory floor
- B. A requirement applying only to refrigerant systems
- C. An optional credit extending verification considerably further than the prerequisite
- D. A credit that replaces the mandatory prerequisite entirely

30. What does the term 'demand response' refer to?

- A. A refrigerant leak alert system
- B. A fixed, unchangeable HVAC operating schedule
- C. A water conservation strategy exclusive to cooling towers
- D. Temporarily reducing load in response to a utility grid-stress signal

31. What is the correct definition of a 'Renewable Energy Certificate' (REC)?

- A. A physical connection to a specific renewable generation facility
- B. A tradable instrument representing renewable generation attributes, purchased separately from electricity
- C. A one-time tax credit for solar panel installation
- D. A government-issued building permit for renewable energy systems

32. What does the term 'Type III EPD' specifically require?

- A. Independent third-party verification of the underlying life-cycle assessment
- B. A minimum five-page document length
- C. Approval exclusively from a single named certifying body
- D. No verification of any kind, by definition

33. What is the correct definition of 'hotspot materials' in an embodied carbon context?

- A. Materials located in a building's mechanical room specifically
- B. Materials requiring the least treatment among alternative water sources
- C. Materials exempt from any embodied carbon documentation
- D. The specific materials contributing most to a project's total embodied carbon

34. What does 'Accessible Outdoor Space' require under LEED v5, beyond simple square footage?

- A. Nothing beyond meeting a minimum square-footage threshold
- B. Genuine barrier-free access and community usability
- C. Exclusive access limited to building occupants only
- D. A minimum number of parking spaces adjacent to the space

35. What is the correct definition of a 'carbon offset'?

- A. A physical device that captures carbon dioxide from indoor air
- B. A discount applied to LEED registration fees
- C. A tradable credit representing one metric ton of avoided or reduced CO₂e emissions
- D. A required component of every Fundamental Commissioning report

36. What does the term 'Owner's Project Requirements' (OPR) specifically capture?

- A. The owner's goals, budget constraints, and sustainability objectives
- B. The contractor's construction schedule exclusively
- C. A record of subcontractor bids received during procurement
- D. The final as-built drawings of the completed building

37. What is the correct definition of 'full electrification'?

- A. Eliminating on-site fossil fuel combustion in favor of electric systems
- B. Installing solar panels on 100% of a building's roof area
- C. Connecting a building to a backup generator system
- D. Achieving a LEED Platinum certification level automatically

38. What does the term 'Preconstruction Site Assessment' refer to?

- A. A financial audit conducted after certification is awarded

- B. A refrigerant inventory conducted during design
- C. Identifying special-status vegetation, soils, and wildlife habitat before construction
- D. A structural engineering review of foundation design

39. What is the correct definition of 'Surrounding Density' as a Location and Transportation pathway?

- A. A measure of a building's internal occupant density exclusively
- B. Combined units and building floor area per acre within a defined radius
- C. A refrigerant charge threshold unrelated to site context
- D. A measure of parking spaces per building occupant

40. What does the term 'thermal comfort' encompass, according to LEED's framework?

- A. Air temperature alone, with no other contributing factors
- B. A single fixed target temperature applicable to all spaces
- C. Humidity alone, independent of any other factor
- D. Six interacting factors including temperature, humidity, and air speed

41. What is the correct definition of 'Minimized Site Disturbance'?

- A. A prerequisite limiting construction impact on native vegetation, soils, and habitat
- B. An optional credit rewarding maximum site excavation
- C. A requirement exclusive to LEED ND projects
- D. A metric measuring a building's total embodied carbon

42. What does 'Diverse Uses' reward as a Location and Transportation pathway?

- A. Exclusively residential land use within a project area
- B. A single dominant commercial use covering an entire site
- C. Maximum available parking capacity on site
- D. A genuine mix of residential, commercial, civic, and recreational uses

43. What is the correct definition of 'cycles of concentration' in a Cooling Tower Water Use context?

- A. The number of refrigerant compression cycles per hour
- B. A measure of a building's total energy demand
- C. The number of times water recirculates before being discharged as blowdown
- D. A metric unrelated to cooling tower operation

44. What does the term 'Fundamental Refrigerant Management' require?

- A. Unlimited use of any refrigerant without restriction
- B. Restricting high-GWP refrigerants or requiring low-GWP alternatives with leak detection
- C. Complete elimination of all mechanical cooling systems
- D. A requirement applying exclusively to LEED Homes projects

45. What is the correct definition of a 'Minimum Program Requirement' (MPR)?

- A. A baseline eligibility criterion a project must meet for certification
- B. An optional credit worth a fixed number of bonus points
- C. A requirement applying only to Energy and Atmosphere
- D. A financial disclosure requirement unrelated to eligibility

46. What does 'Connecting with Nature' reward as a credit?

- A. Compliance with ASHRAE 62.1 ventilation standards exclusively
- B. A refrigerant selection criterion unrelated to interior design
- C. Biophilic design strategies incorporating natural elements and patterns
- D. A structural engineering requirement for seismic bracing

47. What is the correct definition of 'Water Metering and Reporting' as a v5 prerequisite?

- A. A single water quality test performed once at certification
- B. Monitoring potable and alternative sources and sharing data for at least five years
- C. A requirement limited exclusively to LEED O+M projects
- D. An optional credit rather than a mandatory prerequisite

48. What does the term 'Project Priorities' refer to under LEED v5?

- A. A category exclusive to LEED Fellow applications
- B. The rating system's mandatory prerequisites collectively
- C. A credit addressing only refrigerant selection
- D. A consolidated 10-point category replacing legacy Innovation and Regional Priority

49. What is the correct definition of 'Resilient Spaces' as an Indoor Environmental Quality credit?

- A. Interior spaces designed to remain functional during extreme outdoor conditions
- B. A structural seismic bracing requirement
- C. A credit addressing only exterior landscaping resilience
- D. A refrigerant management requirement unrelated to interiors

50. What does 'Arc' refer to in a LEED v5 context?

- A. A refrigerant classification system
- B. A structural engineering design standard
- C. The platform for v5 project registration and certification submission
- D. A discontinued legacy platform no longer in use

51. What is the correct definition of 'Reduce Peak Thermal Loads' as a credit?

- A. A credit rewarding maximum mechanical equipment capacity

- B. A prerequisite unrelated to envelope or orientation decisions
- C. A water-related credit despite its thermal-sounding name
- D. A credit rewarding designs requiring smaller mechanical equipment than conventional

52. What does the term 'Equitable Development' address as a credit?

- A. Exclusively refrigerant selection criteria alone
- B. Priority sites, housing proximity, and equitable access
- C. Exclusively ASHRAE 90.1 compliance alone
- D. A requirement limited only to interior projects

53. What is the correct definition of 'Climate Resilience Assessment' as an Integrative Process prerequisite?

- A. A one-time financial audit of project costs
- B. A refrigerant inventory conducted during design
- C. An evaluation of site-specific natural and climate hazard exposure
- D. A structural review of a building's seismic bracing

54. What does the term 'Access to Transit' reward as a pathway?

- A. Proximity to any road, regardless of transit service
- B. A fixed parking ratio unrelated to transit
- C. A refrigerant management requirement unrelated to transportation
- D. Proximity to transit calibrated to actual service frequency

55. What is the correct definition of a 'Preliminary Review' in the LEED certification workflow?

- A. A final, unappealable certification decision
- B. GBCI's initial review of submitted project documentation
- C. A refrigerant inspection required before occupancy

D. An informal, non-binding conversation with no documented outcome

56. What does the term 'Indoor Air Quality Procedure' (IAQP) refer to?

- A. A performance-based ventilation compliance pathway alongside prescriptive rate calculation
- B. A refrigerant leak testing protocol
- C. A structural inspection checklist
- D. A water quality testing method for graywater systems

57. What is the correct definition of 'Enhanced Building Accessibility'?

- A. A prerequisite unrelated to interior design decisions
- B. A refrigerant management credit specifically
- C. A credit rewarding design exceeding minimum legal accessibility compliance
- D. A requirement limited exclusively to exterior spaces

58. What does the term 'Reduced Irrigation' pathway require, as distinct from 'No Irrigation Required'?

- A. Demonstrating improved efficiency where some permanent irrigation remains necessary
- B. Complete elimination of all irrigation, identical to the other pathway
- C. A requirement applying only to LEED ND projects
- D. A refrigerant-related calculation unrelated to landscaping

59. What is the correct definition of the 'Credential Maintenance Program' (CMP)?

- A. A one-time exam retake requirement only
- B. Ongoing continuing education keeping a credential active
- C. A financial penalty for late submission
- D. A refrigerant compliance tracking system only

60. What does the term 'Bird-Friendly Glass' refer to as a Biodiverse Habitat option?

- A. A refrigerant classification unrelated to glazing
- B. A structural glazing load requirement
- C. A financial support payment toward off-site conservation
- D. Glazing specifically designed to reduce bird collision risk

61. What is the correct definition of a 'certification level' under LEED?

- A. The tier (Certified, Silver, Gold, Platinum) determined by total scorecard points
- B. A credential held by an individual professional
- C. A prerequisite category exclusive to Water Efficiency
- D. A refrigerant classification tier

62. What does the term 'monitoring-based commissioning' refer to?

- A. A one-time inspection performed before construction begins
- B. A refrigerant leak detection system exclusively
- C. Commissioning that continues verification into a building's early operation
- D. A financial audit unrelated to system performance

63. What is the correct definition of 'Walkable Location' as a pathway?

- A. A requirement mandating zero on-site parking
- B. A refrigerant selection criterion specifically
- C. A pathway exclusive to LEED Homes only
- D. Rewarding sites walkable to daily needs, independent of transit

64. What does the term 'Green Lease' refer to in an Integrative Process context?

- A. A refrigerant purchasing agreement specifically
- B. Lease language aligning landlord-tenant energy incentives
- C. A discounted rent structure unrelated to sustainability
- D. A one-time construction contract addendum

65. What is the correct definition of 'Indoor Air Quality Performance' as a credit?

- A. A prerequisite requiring no ongoing monitoring
- B. A structural ventilation duct sizing requirement
- C. Ongoing air quality monitoring worth up to 10 points
- D. A credit limited to naturally ventilated buildings only

66. What does the term 'Sensitive Land Protection' refer to?

- A. A refrigerant classification unrelated to site selection
- B. A structural foundation design requirement
- C. A financial incentive for purchasing undeveloped land
- D. Discouraging development on floodplains, wetlands, and similarly sensitive land

67. What is the correct definition of 'Tenant Guidelines' under Core and Shell Integrative Process credits?

- A. A refrigerant management document unrelated to tenants
- B. Documented sustainability requirements the base building team provides to future tenant teams
- C. A financial penalty clause for late tenant move-in
- D. A structural load requirement for tenant improvements

68. What does the term 'Human Impact Assessment' evaluate?

- A. Local demographic, infrastructure, and community health data
- B. A structural seismic risk calculation exclusively

- C. A refrigerant's health impact on building occupants specifically
- D. A financial audit of construction labor costs

69. What is the correct definition of 'exemplary performance' as it relates to certain LEED credits?

- A. A requirement applying only to Water Efficiency prerequisites
- B. A penalty applied when a credit's threshold is not met
- C. An additional point for significantly exceeding a credit's stated threshold
- D. A mandatory minimum every project must achieve

70. What does the term 'Regional Priority' refer to under the legacy LEED v4 structure?

- A. A single fixed credit worth exactly one point in every region
- B. Bonus points for achieving credits USGBC regional councils flagged as locally significant
- C. A requirement eliminated with no v5 replacement of any kind
- D. A prerequisite unrelated to any bonus point structure

71. What is the correct definition of 'Compact and Connected Development's' Access to Transit pathway threshold basis?

- A. Physical distance from a transit stop exclusively, regardless of service
- B. A building's total floor area exclusively
- C. A refrigerant charge threshold unrelated to transit
- D. Weekday and weekend transit trip frequency at nearby stops

72. What does the term 'Zero Waste Operations' refer to as a Materials and Resources prerequisite?

- A. A documented plan for minimizing, sorting, and diverting operational waste over time
- B. A one-time construction waste tally with no ongoing component
- C. A requirement applying only to LEED ID+C projects
- D. A refrigerant disposal protocol unrelated to waste operations

73. What is the correct definition of 'Fundamental Commissioning' as a prerequisite?

- A. An optional credit available only at the Platinum tier
- B. The mandatory baseline verifying OPR/BOD review and energy system installation
- C. A requirement limited exclusively to refrigerant systems
- D. A financial audit unrelated to system verification

74. What does the term 'Occupant Experience' consolidate as a single credit under LEED v5?

- A. Only thermal comfort, with no other components
- B. Only acoustic performance, excluding all other qualities
- C. A refrigerant-related indoor air quality metric exclusively
- D. Thermal comfort, daylighting, quality views, and acoustic performance together

75. What is the correct definition of a 'pilot credit' in the LEED system?

- A. An experimental credit tested before potentially joining the standard rating system
- B. A mandatory prerequisite applying to every project
- C. A financial incentive unrelated to credit structure
- D. A credit exclusive to LEED Fellow applications

76. What does the term 'Heat Island Reduction' address as a credit?

- A. Refrigerant-related emissions exclusively
- B. A structural foundation cooling requirement
- C. Solar heat absorption from dark, impervious surfaces raising local temperatures
- D. A water quality metric unrelated to site temperature

77. What is the correct definition of 'Green Power' as it relates to the Green Power and Carbon Offsets credit?

- A. A refrigerant classification with low global warming potential
- B. Electricity purchased through RECs or similar renewable-attribute instruments
- C. A structural material rated for high recycled content
- D. A discount program for LEED registration fees

78. What does the term 'Enhanced Refrigerant Management Option 2' require?

- A. No calculation of any kind, regardless of refrigerant type
- B. A requirement applying only to Water Efficiency projects
- C. A calculation incorporating refrigerant charge, leakage rate, and equipment life
- D. Automatic disqualification for any refrigerant with measurable GWP

79. What is the correct definition of a 'reference baseline' in energy modeling?

- A. A standardized comparison building used to evaluate a proposed design's performance
- B. A fixed dollar amount every project must budget for energy
- C. A refrigerant charge limit unrelated to energy modeling
- D. The final, as-built energy performance of the completed building

80. What does the term 'Enhanced Resilient Site Design' address?

- A. A refrigerant management requirement unrelated to site design
- B. A structural seismic bracing requirement for building foundations
- C. A water quality metric unrelated to climate hazards
- D. Site design strategies responding to hazards identified in the Climate Resilience Assessment

81. What is the correct definition of 'Transportation Demand Management' as a credit?

- A. A credit addressing VMT reduction, parking strategies, and transportation emissions
- B. A refrigerant management credit unrelated to transportation
- C. A requirement limited exclusively to LEED Homes projects
- D. A structural requirement for parking garage design

82. What does the term 'Innovation credit' refer to under the legacy LEED v4 structure?

- A. A mandatory prerequisite for every project category
- B. Points for exemplary performance or a LEED AP on team
- C. A requirement exclusive to Water Efficiency only
- D. A refrigerant classification system specifically

83. What is the correct definition of a 'design analysis' step within the Operational Carbon Projection prerequisite?

- A. A financial audit of construction costs exclusively
- B. A refrigerant leakage test performed after occupancy
- C. Analyzing efficiency, peak load reduction, and decarbonization measures early in design
- D. A structural review of a building's seismic performance

84. What does the term 'sustainable purchasing policy' extend environmental consideration into?

- A. Construction-phase decisions exclusively, with no ongoing component
- B. A refrigerant selection criterion exclusively
- C. A requirement limited exclusively to LEED Homes projects
- D. A building's ongoing operational procurement practices

85. What is the correct definition of a 'Preliminary Review' outcome compared to a 'Final Review' outcome?

- A. Both represent the exact same review stage under a different name
- B. The Preliminary Review is legally binding; the Final Review is advisory only
- C. Only the Final Review actually occurs; Preliminary Review was discontinued
- D. Preliminary Review often precedes clarification requests before a final certification decision

86. What does the term 'Assess Embodied Carbon' require as a Materials and Resources prerequisite?

- A. Inventorying GWP for structure, enclosure, and hardscape materials
- B. A refrigerant charge calculation unrelated to materials
- C. A one-time financial audit of material costs
- D. A requirement limited exclusively to LEED O+M projects

87. What is the correct definition of 'Enhanced Building Accessibility' relative to code-minimum compliance?

- A. It merely restates existing code requirements with no added expectation
- B. It specifically rewards design exceeding minimum legal accessibility requirements
- C. It applies only to exterior circulation paths, never interior spaces
- D. It was removed from LEED v5 with no replacement credit

88. What does the term 'Light Pollution Reduction' credit primarily reward?

- A. Maximizing total site lighting output regardless of direction
- B. A refrigerant management strategy unrelated to lighting
- C. Exterior lighting design limiting trespass and minimizing uplight to the night sky
- D. A structural requirement for lighting fixture mounting height

89. What is the correct definition of 'Reduce Embodied Carbon Option 2' (EPD Analysis)?

- A. A more accessible, prescriptive pathway rewarding procurement of verified low-carbon products
- B. A requirement identical in scope to Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment

- C. A refrigerant management pathway unrelated to embodied carbon
- D. A pathway available only to projects with no life-cycle assessment capability whatsoever

90. What does the term 'Cooling Tower Water Use' credit primarily reward?

- A. A refrigerant selection criterion unrelated to cooling towers
- B. A structural load requirement for rooftop cooling equipment
- C. A metric unrelated to water consumption
- D. Increased cycles of concentration and alternative water sources for makeup water

91. What is the correct definition of a 'reporting period' under the Credential Maintenance Program?

- A. A one-time, single-year requirement with no recurring cycle
- B. The fixed two-year cycle during which required CE hours must be earned and reported
- C. A requirement applying only to LEED Fellow credential holders
- D. An indefinite period with no defined end date

92. What does the term 'Priority Sites' refer to within Equitable Development?

- A. A refrigerant management pathway unrelated to site selection
- B. A requirement limited exclusively to LEED ND projects
- C. Pathways including brownfield remediation and historic location
- D. A structural foundation requirement for contaminated sites

93. What is the correct definition of 'Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment Module D'?

- A. A refrigerant management module unrelated to life-cycle assessment
- B. The construction-phase module exclusively, with no other scope
- C. Reporting benefits and impacts extending beyond the building's immediate system boundary
- D. A financial audit module unrelated to environmental impact

94. What does the term 'Indoor Environmental Quality' as a category broadly address?

- A. Only refrigerant-related concerns within a building
- B. Air quality, thermal comfort, lighting, acoustics, and human-centered design
- C. Only structural engineering concerns within a building
- D. Only exterior site conditions surrounding a building

95. What is the correct definition of 'Ecological Conservation and Restoration' as a LEED v5 impact area?

- A. A category addressing only refrigerant selection criteria
- B. A category addressing only structural material choices
- C. A category addressing only interior air quality
- D. Protecting and actively improving a project's relationship to surrounding natural systems

96. What does the term 'Quality of Life' refer to as a LEED v5 impact area?

- A. Human health, comfort, and equity within the built environment
- B. A metric measuring only a building's financial return on investment
- C. A metric measuring only a building's structural durability
- D. A category addressing exclusively refrigerant selection

97. What is the correct definition of 'Decarbonization' as a LEED v5 impact area?

- A. Addressing both embodied and operational carbon reduction across a building's life
- B. A metric addressing only interior lighting design
- C. A metric addressing only exterior landscaping choices
- D. A category unrelated to energy or materials decisions

98. What does the term 'Project Registration' mark at the start of a LEED certification process?

- A. The final step of the certification process, not the first
- B. A refrigerant compliance milestone unrelated to certification timing
- C. The formal start of pursuing a specific rating system and version for a project
- D. A requirement applying only after construction is already complete

99. What is the correct definition of 'Clarification Request' within GBCI's review process?

- A. A final, unappealable rejection of a certification application
- B. GBCI's request for additional documentation to resolve a review question
- C. A refrigerant inspection requirement unrelated to documentation review
- D. A candidate's request to change their exam score after the fact

100. What does the term 'domain weighting' refer to in the context of exam preparation?

- A. A refrigerant classification metric unrelated to exam content
- B. A structural engineering calculation method
- C. A financial cost associated with exam registration
- D. The proportion of exam questions drawn from each knowledge domain

Practice Exam 7: Answer Key and Explanations

1. D — A LEED prerequisite is a mandatory requirement that earns no points directly but must be satisfied for a project to remain eligible for certification. This distinguishes it fundamentally from an optional credit, which contributes points toward a project's total score, and prerequisites apply across every credit category, not any single one exclusively.

2. B — Benchmarking specifically refers to tracking a building's actual measured energy or water performance over time, commonly through tools like ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, verifying whether design-phase predictions are actually being met in practice. This differs from a one-time design-phase calculation, which only predicts performance before a building is ever occupied.

3. A — Embodied carbon refers specifically to emissions associated with material extraction, manufacturing, transportation, and construction, largely a one-time impact locked in before a building is

ever occupied. This is distinct from operational carbon, which instead accumulates continuously from ongoing energy use throughout a building's decades of subsequent operation. This timing distinction is frequently tested on this domain.

4. C — A charrette is an intensive, collaborative design workshop, often lasting a full day or more, held early in a project's design process where the full team explores design challenges together in real time. This occurs well before construction, distinct from later-stage activities like final walkthroughs or formal certification review meetings.

5. C — Global Warming Potential measures a substance's heat-trapping effect relative to carbon dioxide over a defined time horizon, allowing refrigerants and other substances to be compared on a standardized climate-impact scale. This is distinct from ozone depletion potential, which instead measures a different, separate environmental risk entirely. This standardized scale enables meaningful cross-substance comparison.

6. B — VMT stands for Vehicle Miles Traveled, measuring the total distance building occupants and visitors travel by car to and from a project, serving as LEED's central metric for quantifying transportation-related carbon footprint. This term has no connection to material testing, ventilation, or metering totals despite superficially similar abbreviations. Confusing similar-sounding abbreviations is a common exam pitfall.

7. A — Hydrozoning refers to grouping plants by similar water needs within a landscape design, ensuring no single plant receives more irrigation than it actually requires simply because it shares a zone with a thirstier neighbor. This is a landscaping strategy specifically, unrelated to any chemical treatment process or refrigerant classification. This term applies specifically to landscape water planning.

8. D — A leverage point is a place within a system where a relatively small, well-targeted intervention produces a disproportionately large improvement in overall performance, such as building orientation decided early in design at essentially no added cost. This concept has no connection to final inspections or financial disclosure requirements. Building orientation is the classic textbook example here.

9. B — A Health Product Declaration discloses a product's chemical ingredient content and associated health hazard information, letting project teams avoid materials containing substances of concern. This is distinct from an EPD, which instead discloses a product's environmental life-cycle impacts such as global warming potential, not its chemical makeup. Confusing EPDs and HPDs is a frequently tested distinction.

10. D — The Basis of Design documents the design team's technical approach to meeting the Owner's Project Requirements, specifying the systems, strategies, and assumptions chosen to satisfy the owner's stated goals. This differs from the OPR itself, which instead captures the owner's goals directly, not the design team's technical response to them.

11. A — Systems thinking is the practice of understanding a building, or any complex system, as a network of interconnected parts rather than a collection of independent components analyzed in

isolation. This interconnected view recognizes that a decision made in one area ripples into every other area throughout a building's design and operation.

12. C — Grid-interactive describes a building that actively communicates and coordinates its operation with utility grid conditions, participating in demand response programs and shifting flexible loads based on real-time grid signals. This is distinct from a building simply relying on on-site generation alone or being entirely disconnected from the grid. This coordination is distinct from generation alone.

13. D — Life-cycle cost analysis totals a building's costs across its full useful life, including energy and water bills, maintenance, repairs, and eventual system replacement, then compares design alternatives on that fuller basis. This differs meaningfully from first cost, which captures only the upfront capital expense of design and construction alone. This fuller accounting often favors higher first-cost strategies.

14. B — Light trespass refers to artificial light extending beyond its intended target area, illuminating neighboring properties or escaping into the night sky, contributing to both human quality-of-life nuisance and disruption of nocturnal wildlife behavior. This is unrelated to construction site security or ASHRAE 90.1 lighting power density limits specifically. This distinction matters for both people and wildlife.

15. C — Operational carbon accumulates continuously over a building's years of operation, from ongoing energy used for heating, cooling, lighting, and equipment throughout the building's entire occupied life. This is distinct from embodied carbon, which is largely released once, entirely before occupancy, during material production and construction alone. This ongoing accumulation is a defining operational trait.

16. A — The triple bottom line is a framework evaluating success across three dimensions together: people, encompassing social equity, planet, encompassing environmental health, and profit, encompassing economic viability, rather than optimizing for financial performance alone. This framework was coined by sustainability consultant John Elkington and is sometimes called the '3 Ps.' This framework applies broadly across every credit category.

17. A — A power purchase agreement is a long-term contractual commitment to purchase electricity from a specific off-site renewable facility, often financing that facility's development directly through the agreement itself. This differs from a one-time payment, a government subsidy program, or a mechanical equipment warranty, none of which describe a PPA's actual structure.

18. B — Submetering refers to tracking water use of distinct subsystems, such as irrigation, indoor plumbing, or reclaimed water, separately from a single combined whole-building total figure. This granular tracking lets facilities operators identify exactly where water is being used and where inefficiency or leaks are occurring at a subsystem-specific level. This resolution enables precise, subsystem-level diagnosis.

19. D — A negative feedback loop counteracts change, working to stabilize or restore a system toward equilibrium, such as a thermostat activating cooling when temperature rises and shutting off once the

setpoint is reached. This is distinct from a positive feedback loop, which instead amplifies and accelerates the original change rather than dampening it.

20. C — Biophilic design refers to incorporating natural elements, patterns, and processes into the built environment, based on documented human tendencies to respond positively to contact with nature, whether through direct plantings, natural materials, or spatial configurations. This concept has no connection to seismic design or refrigerant selection criteria specifically. This concept spans both interior and exterior design.

21. A — A brownfield is specifically a site with identified soil or groundwater contamination, often requiring authority-mandated remediation before or during redevelopment, distinguishing it from other sensitive land types like wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmland. LEED's brownfield remediation pathway specifically rewards locating on and cleaning up these contaminated sites. This term matters specifically for site selection decisions.

22. B — Peak load refers to the maximum heating or cooling demand a building's mechanical systems must be sized to meet, typically occurring during the most extreme weather conditions combined with peak internal heat gains from occupants and equipment. This differs from total annual consumption, which measures cumulative energy use rather than a single peak demand moment.

23. D — Graywater is lightly contaminated water specifically from sinks, showers, and laundry, distinct from more heavily regulated or entirely ineligible sources like raw stream water, untreated groundwater, or geothermal discharge. Graywater requires comparatively little treatment before reuse in applications like toilet flushing, making it a practical, low-energy alternative source. This is a specific, well-defined alternative water source.

24. A — Ozone depletion potential measures a substance's capacity to break down stratospheric ozone, the concern behind the historical phase-out of CFCs and HCFCs under international agreements. This is a distinct environmental metric from global warming potential, which instead measures a substance's heat-trapping effect relative to carbon dioxide over time. This distinct metric predates modern climate concerns.

25. C — Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment is a comprehensive assessment spanning material production, construction, use-phase, and end-of-life stages plus beyond-life-cycle benefits, evaluating a building's full material-related environmental impact. This is far more extensive than a single material test or a construction-phase-only waste review, covering the complete life-cycle picture instead. This comprehensive scope distinguishes it from simpler assessments.

26. D — Compact and Connected Development is a consolidated LEED v5 credit rewarding density, transit access, and walkability through multiple distinct qualifying pathways, replacing what LEED v4 addressed as separate Surrounding Density, Diverse Uses, and Access to Quality Transit credits. A project can qualify through any one or more of these available pathways.

27. B — Quality views specifically rewards direct sightlines to the outdoors from regularly occupied spaces, recognizing that visual connection to the outside world carries measurable wellbeing benefits

independent of daylighting's illumination value alone. This differs from a general aesthetics metric or a structural inspection requirement unrelated to occupant visual connection. This differs meaningfully from daylighting's separate metric.

28. C — A decarbonization roadmap sequences specific strategies like electrification, renewable energy procurement, and refrigerant upgrades across defined phases of a building's projected operating life, each tied to a concrete triggering condition. This differs from a single design-phase energy model, which only predicts performance at one moment rather than planning ongoing reduction.

29. C — Enhanced Commissioning is an optional credit extending verification considerably further than Fundamental Commissioning's mandatory baseline, including earlier authority engagement during design, broader system verification, and potentially monitoring-based commissioning into actual operation. It does not replace the prerequisite; both exist as genuinely distinct requirements under current LEED v5. Both remain genuinely active under current LEED v5.

30. D — Demand response refers to temporarily reducing or shifting a building's electrical load in response to a utility signal indicating grid stress, typically in exchange for financial incentives or favorable rate benefits. This is a specific grid-interactive operational strategy, unrelated to refrigerant leak alerts or fixed, unchangeable HVAC scheduling. This strategy connects directly to grid-interactive operation.

31. B — A Renewable Energy Certificate is a tradable instrument representing the environmental attributes of renewable electricity generation, purchased separately from the physical electricity itself, letting a project claim credit for supporting renewable generation without a direct on-site installation or a specific off-site power purchase agreement tied to one facility. This flexible instrument supports broader market participation.

32. A — A Type III EPD specifically requires independent third-party verification of the underlying life-cycle assessment, distinguishing it from a manufacturer's unverified self-declared environmental claim regardless of how detailed that claim might otherwise appear. No specific page length or single named certifying body defines this particular EPD classification. No specific length or single approver defines this classification.

33. D — Hotspot materials refer specifically to the materials contributing the most to a project's total embodied carbon, identified through the Quantify and Assess Embodied Carbon prerequisite's required documentation process. Identifying these specific materials helps project teams focus later reduction strategies where they will have the greatest overall impact on total emissions.

34. B — Accessible Outdoor Space under LEED v5 requires genuine barrier-free access and community usability beyond simply meeting a minimum square-footage threshold, which was the primary criterion under the earlier LEED v4 version of this credit. A rooftop reachable only by stairs, for example, no longer satisfies this credit's updated, more comprehensive intent.

35. C — A carbon offset is a tradable credit representing one metric ton of CO₂-equivalent emissions avoided or reduced elsewhere, applicable to a broad range of emission sources including direct

combustion, refrigerant leaks, and transportation, as well as indirect electricity-related emissions. This differs entirely from a physical carbon capture device or a fee discount.

36. A — The Owner's Project Requirements specifically captures the owner's goals, functional requirements, budget constraints, and sustainability objectives in a single reference document the whole project team designs toward throughout the process. This differs from a construction schedule, a subcontractor bid record, or final as-built drawings, none of which this document represents.

37. A — Full electrification describes eliminating on-site fossil fuel combustion entirely in favor of electric systems, particularly heat pump-based heating rather than simple electric resistance heating, for space heating, water heating, and cooking loads throughout a building. This is distinct from solar panel coverage percentage or backup generator connectivity specifically. This distinguishes true electrification from partial fuel switching.

38. C — A Preconstruction Site Assessment specifically identifies special-status vegetation, soils, and wildlife habitat before a single shovel breaks ground, feeding directly into later habitat and open space credit decisions the project team makes. This differs entirely from a post-certification financial audit or a structural foundation engineering review unrelated to ecological site conditions.

39. B — Surrounding Density is measured as combined residential units and non-residential building floor area per acre within a defined radius of a project, rewarding locations with meaningful existing density rather than internal occupant density or parking-to-occupant ratios, which are entirely separate, unrelated metrics used elsewhere in the rating system. This differs from unrelated occupancy or parking metrics.

40. D — Thermal comfort encompasses six interacting factors together: air temperature, radiant temperature, air speed, humidity, occupant metabolic rate, and clothing insulation, rather than any single factor like temperature alone determining comfort outcomes. This is why LEED's referenced standard evaluates this fuller combination rather than specifying one fixed target temperature. No single factor alone determines this outcome.

41. A — Minimized Site Disturbance is a mandatory prerequisite limiting construction impact on existing native vegetation, healthy soils, and wildlife habitat, requiring both an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and a Preconstruction Site Assessment before any Sustainable Sites credit points can be pursued. It earns zero points directly, functioning purely as an eligibility floor.

42. D — Diverse Uses rewards a genuine mix of residential, commercial, civic, and recreational uses within walking distance of a project, reducing the need to drive between every daily destination throughout a resident's or occupant's typical routine. This differs from exclusively residential zoning or a single dominant commercial use covering an entire site area.

43. C — Cycles of concentration refers to the number of times water recirculates through a cooling tower system before being discharged as blowdown, with a higher number reducing the total volume of makeup water and blowdown a system requires. This is a water-related mechanical operating metric entirely unrelated to refrigerant compression cycles specifically.

44. B — Fundamental Refrigerant Management requires either restricting the use of high-global-warming-potential refrigerants or specifying low-GWP alternatives paired with adequate leak detection and prevention measures, not unlimited refrigerant use without restriction. This mandatory prerequisite exists specifically to accelerate the phase-out of high-impact refrigerants across new HVAC and refrigeration equipment. This directly targets a commonly overlooked emissions source.

45. A — A Minimum Program Requirement is a baseline eligibility criterion every project must satisfy before pursuing any certification points, defining the types of buildings LEED was designed to evaluate rather than functioning as an optional, points-earning bonus category. Failing even one MPR disqualifies a project from certification regardless of credit points earned.

46. C — Connecting with Nature rewards biophilic design strategies incorporating natural elements, patterns, and processes into interior spaces, based on documented human responses to nature contact, such as living green walls, natural materials, and views combining shelter with prospect. This is unrelated to ventilation standard compliance or seismic structural bracing requirements. This credit rewards multiple combined design mechanisms.

47. B — Water Metering and Reporting requires monitoring both potable and alternative water sources, separately metering alternative sources from municipal supply, and committing to sharing usage data annually for a minimum of five years. This is a new v5 mandatory prerequisite, not merely a one-time test or an optional credit limited to any single project type.

48. D — Project Priorities is LEED v5's consolidated 10-point category replacing the legacy v4 structure of separate 6-point Innovation and 4-point Regional Priority categories, reorganizing bonus points into a single, more flexible framework. The overall bonus point total remains unchanged at 10 points; only the internal organization and structure has genuinely changed.

49. A — Resilient Spaces rewards interior spaces specifically designed to remain functional and safe during extreme outdoor conditions like extreme heat, poor air quality from wildfire smoke, or extended power disruption, connecting directly to the Climate Resilience Assessment's documented hazard findings. This is a new LEED v5 Indoor Environmental Quality credit addressing human-centered resilience.

50. C — Arc is specifically the platform for LEED v5 project registration and certification submission, replacing LEED Online for v5 projects while legacy v4 and v4.1 projects continue using LEED Online instead. Arc has not been discontinued; it is the current, actively used registration platform for all projects pursuing the current rating system version.

51. D — Reduce Peak Thermal Loads specifically rewards designs requiring smaller mechanical equipment than a conventional building of the same size and program would need, evolved from a LEED v4 pilot credit focused on achieving both carbon and cost savings simultaneously. This directly connects envelope and orientation decisions to eventual mechanical equipment sizing outcomes.

52. B — Equitable Development addresses priority sites like brownfield remediation and historic location, housing and jobs proximity, and equitable access to resources like public spaces and

community partnerships, combining environmental and community-equity considerations within a single unified credit. This is not limited to refrigerant criteria, energy code compliance, or interior-only projects. This combines environmental and equity considerations directly.

53. C — The Climate Resilience Assessment specifically evaluates a project's site-specific exposure to natural and climate-related hazards, such as flooding, extreme heat, or wildfire, requiring documented design strategies addressing at least two of twelve defined hazard categories. This is unrelated to financial audits, refrigerant inventories, or seismic structural bracing reviews. This is one of three mandatory IP assessments.

54. D — Access to Transit rewards proximity to transit calibrated to actual weekday and weekend service frequency at nearby stops, not merely physical distance from any road or a fixed, unrelated parking ratio. A stop served frequently throughout the day earns more credit recognition than one served infrequently, even at an identical physical walking distance.

55. B — A Preliminary Review refers specifically to GBCI's initial review of a project's submitted documentation, typically taking several weeks, occurring before any final certification decision is rendered and often generating clarification requests the project team must address. This is not the final, unappealable step, nor an informal conversation lacking a documented outcome.

56. A — The Indoor Air Quality Procedure is a performance-based ventilation compliance pathway newly recognized alongside the traditional prescriptive ventilation-rate calculation method under LEED v5, allowing air cleaning and source control strategies to substitute for some outdoor air ventilation while still achieving equivalent air quality outcomes. This is unrelated to refrigerant testing protocols.

57. C — Enhanced Building Accessibility rewards design that goes beyond minimum legal accessibility compliance toward interiors genuinely comfortable and usable across a full range of physical abilities, extending the equity themes running throughout LEED v5's quality-of-life impact area. This is a new v5 credit, not merely a restatement of existing baseline code requirements.

58. A — Reduced Irrigation requires demonstrating improved irrigation efficiency, typically using the EPA WaterSense Water Budget Tool, where some permanent irrigation genuinely remains necessary for the landscape design. This differs from No Irrigation Required, the more ambitious pathway that eliminates permanent irrigation demand entirely rather than merely improving its documented efficiency. This pathway suits sites where full elimination isn't realistic.

59. B — The Credential Maintenance Program is the system requiring ongoing continuing education hours to keep a LEED credential active, reflecting the logic that green building practice and the LEED rating system itself continue to evolve after a candidate's original exam date. This is not a one-time exam retake requirement or a financial penalty structure.

60. D — Bird-Friendly Glass refers specifically to glazing designed to reduce bird collision risk, added as a new LEED v5 compliance option under Biodiverse Habitat, replacing the older financial-support pathway that previously allowed off-site conservation payments as an alternative. This reflects a broader

v5 shift toward tangible, on-site ecological improvements. This reflects a broader shift toward on-site strategies.

61. A — A certification level refers specifically to the tier, Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum, that a project's total scorecard points determine, based on fixed point thresholds applying consistently across BD+C, ID+C, and O+M rating systems. This differs entirely from an individual professional credential, which is held by a person, not a project.

62. C — Monitoring-based commissioning refers to commissioning activities that continue performance verification into a building's first year or more of actual operation, extending beyond a one-time, pre-construction or handoff-only inspection. This advanced pathway within Enhanced Commissioning directly reinforces the same design-to-operation feedback loop found across other LEED v5 credit categories. This extends verification well beyond a single inspection.

63. D — Walkable Location rewards sites where daily needs like groceries and pharmacies are reachable on foot within a reasonable distance, evaluated independent of transit service frequency specifically, distinguishing it from the separate Access to Transit pathway. This pathway does not mandate zero on-site parking or apply exclusively to any single rating system. This differs clearly from the separate transit pathway.

64. B — A Green Lease refers to lease language specifically aligning landlord and tenant financial incentives around energy and water performance, addressing the common real-world problem where a landlord pays for envelope upgrades but the tenant alone captures the resulting utility savings. This credit extends Core and Shell Integrative Process points forward to future tenants. This addresses a common landlord-tenant incentive misalignment.

65. C — Indoor Air Quality Performance rewards ongoing air quality monitoring and improvement, worth up to 10 points, the largest single point pool within the Indoor Environmental Quality category, with continuous monitoring earning meaningfully more points than one-time testing pathways alone. This credit applies to both mechanically and naturally ventilated building types.

66. D — Sensitive Land Protection refers to LEED's site selection criteria specifically discouraging development on floodplains, wetlands, prime farmland, and habitat for threatened or endangered species, connecting directly to the ecological conservation and restoration impact area. This concept is unrelated to refrigerant classification or structural foundation engineering requirements entirely. This connects directly to ecological conservation priorities.

67. B — Tenant Guidelines refer to documented sustainability requirements and design guidance the base building team provides to future tenant fit-out teams, extending the integrative process philosophy forward to occupants not part of the original project team. This is one of the credits generating Core and Shell's higher available Integrative Process point total.

68. A — The Human Impact Assessment specifically evaluates local demographic, infrastructure, and community health data, incorporating this information into early design decisions to ensure a project's benefits and burdens are evaluated within genuine community context. This is unrelated to seismic risk

calculations, refrigerant health effects specifically, or construction labor cost audits. This research directly informs later design decisions.

69. C — Exemplary performance refers to an additional point available for significantly exceeding a credit's stated threshold rather than merely meeting it, available only where a rating system specifically designates this option for a given credit. This is not a penalty, nor a mandatory minimum every project must achieve regardless of ambition level.

70. B — Regional Priority, under the legacy LEED v4 structure, referred to bonus points awarded for achieving specific existing credits that USGBC's regional councils had flagged as environmentally significant for a project's particular geography, such as water credits in a drought-stressed region. LEED v5 consolidates this into the broader Project Priorities category instead.

71. D — The Access to Transit pathway's point thresholds are based on weekday and weekend transit trip frequency at nearby stops, not merely physical distance from a transit stop regardless of how often service actually runs. A stop served infrequently provides materially less real transportation value than one with frequent all-day service, even at identical distance.

72. A — Planning for Zero Waste Operations requires a documented plan for minimizing, sorting, and diverting a building's ongoing operational waste over time, extending waste consideration well beyond the construction phase into decades of subsequent building operation after occupancy begins. This is a new LEED v5 Materials and Resources prerequisite, not a one-time construction tally.

73. B — Fundamental Commissioning is the mandatory baseline prerequisite requiring, at minimum, review of the Owner's Project Requirements and Basis of Design alongside verification of energy-related system installation, distinct from the optional Enhanced Commissioning credit that extends this verification considerably further. It applies to energy systems broadly, not refrigerant systems exclusively. This baseline applies broadly, not to any single system.

74. D — Occupant Experience consolidates thermal comfort, daylighting, quality views, and acoustic performance together into a single unified credit under LEED v5, replacing what LEED v4.1 evaluated as four separate, independently point-earning credits. This reflects a recognition that these related human-experience qualities interact constantly in real occupant experience within a space. This reflects a deliberate v5 consolidation, not administrative shortcut.

75. A — A pilot credit is an experimental credit USGBC tests through its pilot credit library before deciding whether it formally joins the standard rating system, letting new requirements be proven on real projects first before broader adoption. This differs from a mandatory prerequisite applying universally or a credit exclusive to any single credential application process.

76. C — Heat Island Reduction addresses solar heat absorption from dark, impervious surfaces like conventional roofing and paving, which raises local air temperatures relative to surrounding vegetated areas through this radiated heat effect. This connects directly to the positive feedback loop concept, since hotter local temperatures increase air conditioning demand and associated emissions.

77. B — Green Power refers to electricity purchased through Renewable Energy Certificates or similar renewable-attribute instruments, functioning as a more flexible, market-based approach than dedicated on-site generation or a specific off-site power purchase agreement tied to a single named facility. This lets a project claim credit for supporting broader renewable generation on the grid.

78. C — Enhanced Refrigerant Management's Option 2 requires a calculation incorporating refrigerant charge, expected annual leakage rate, and equipment life to demonstrate an acceptable overall lifecycle climate impact for refrigerants that don't automatically qualify under Option 1's simpler, no-calculation threshold. This provides higher-GWP refrigerants a genuine, real alternative compliance pathway. This provides a genuine alternative compliance path.

79. A — A reference baseline is a standardized comparison building, matched in size, shape, and function, used to evaluate how a proposed design's predicted energy consumption compares in relative, percentage-improvement terms. This differs entirely from a fixed budget figure or the completed building's actual final as-built performance, which is measured separately through benchmarking.

80. D — Enhanced Resilient Site Design addresses site design strategies specifically responding to catastrophic natural events like drought, extreme heat, flooding, hurricanes, or wildfires, directly informed by hazards identified in the earlier Climate Resilience Assessment prerequisite. This credit translates documented hazard findings into concrete, credit-earning site-level design responses and strategies. This connects assessment findings to concrete design response.

81. A — Transportation Demand Management addresses VMT reduction through baseline and proposed-case estimation, parking strategies including reduced capacity and parking fees, and transportation-related carbon emissions estimation together within a single unified credit. This is unrelated to refrigerant management or any requirement limited exclusively to LEED Homes projects specifically. This unifies several previously separate considerations.

82. B — Under the legacy LEED v4 structure, the Innovation credit awarded points for exemplary performance beyond a credit's stated threshold, entirely novel strategies not otherwise addressed in LEED, and a point for including a LEED AP with appropriate specialty as a principal participant on the project team. LEED v5 folds this into Project Priorities.

83. C — The design analysis step requires analyzing efficiency, peak load reduction, and decarbonization measures early in design, using simplified energy modeling, comparable-project analysis, or published data, as the first of four required steps within the Operational Carbon Projection prerequisite. This step feeds directly into subsequent site energy prediction and carbon projection steps.

84. D — A sustainable purchasing policy extends environmental consideration into a building's ongoing operational procurement practices, well beyond the one-time decisions made during design and construction, addressing consumables, cleaning products, furniture, and equipment purchased continuously throughout a building's decades-long operating life. This concept connects Materials and Resources to long-term facility management decisions.

85. D — A Preliminary Review often precedes clarification requests the project team must address before GBCI renders a final certification decision, representing an earlier, iterative stage within the broader documentation review workflow rather than an identical or discontinued step. These two review stages are genuinely sequential, connected parts of the same overall process.

86. A — Quantify and Assess Embodied Carbon requires inventorying global warming potential for major structure, enclosure, and hardscape materials, at minimum including concrete, structural steel, insulation, and similar carbon-intensive material categories. This is a mandatory Materials and Resources prerequisite, not a refrigerant calculation or a financial cost audit of any kind. This documentation feeds directly into later reduction credits.

87. B — Enhanced Building Accessibility specifically rewards design that exceeds minimum legal accessibility requirements toward interiors genuinely comfortable and usable across a full range of physical abilities, rather than merely restating baseline code compliance already legally mandated. This credit applies to interior spaces specifically, and remains an active, current LEED v5 credit.

88. C — Light Pollution Reduction primarily rewards exterior lighting design that limits trespass beyond a site's boundary and minimizes uplight escaping into the night sky, typically achieved through shielded fixtures and lighting calibrated to genuine functional need. This is the opposite of maximizing total lighting output, which would instead worsen light pollution outcomes.

89. A — Reduce Embodied Carbon Option 2, EPD Analysis, offers a more accessible, prescriptive pathway rewarding procurement of specific verified low-carbon products, letting teams without dedicated life-cycle assessment expertise still meaningfully pursue embodied carbon reduction points. This differs from Option 1's more comprehensive Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment, which demands considerably more analytical effort.

90. D — Cooling Tower Water Use primarily rewards increased cycles of concentration, reducing blowdown water volume, and encourages substituting alternative water sources like rainwater or graywater for cooling tower makeup water instead of potable water. This credit addresses water consumption specifically, unrelated to refrigerant selection or structural rooftop equipment load requirements. This addresses water consumption specifically, not equipment sizing.

91. B — A reporting period under the Credential Maintenance Program refers to the fixed two-year cycle during which a credential holder must earn and report the required continuing education hours, running from the date a credential was originally earned or most recently renewed. This is not a one-time, single-year requirement or an indefinite, open-ended timeframe.

92. C — Priority Sites within Equitable Development specifically includes pathways like brownfield remediation and historic location, rewarding site selection decisions that carry genuine community and environmental benefit through productive redevelopment of challenging parcels. This is unrelated to refrigerant management pathways or any requirement limited exclusively to LEED ND projects specifically. This pathway rewards genuinely beneficial site selection.

93. C — Module D within Whole-Building Life-Cycle Assessment reports benefits and impacts extending beyond a building's immediate system boundary, such as reuse, recovery, and recycling potential at end-of-life, reported separately from the core life-cycle stages. This extends the life-cycle framework's scope beyond the building's own operational boundary into broader downstream effects. This extends the framework beyond the immediate boundary.

94. B — Indoor Environmental Quality broadly addresses air quality, thermal comfort, lighting, acoustics, and human-centered design elements like accessibility and biophilic connection, together forming a comprehensive category focused on occupant health and wellbeing within a building. This category extends well beyond any single narrow concern like refrigerant management or structural engineering alone.

95. D — Ecological Conservation and Restoration, one of LEED v5's three sharpened impact areas, addresses protecting and actively improving a project's relationship to surrounding natural systems, going beyond merely minimizing harm toward genuine ecological improvement on and around a project site. This impact area guides credits across Sustainable Sites and Water Efficiency categories specifically.

96. A — Quality of Life, one of LEED v5's three impact areas, centers human health, comfort, and equity within the built environment, encompassing indoor air quality, thermal comfort, daylighting, and expanded social equity considerations like inclusive design and equitable access to project benefits. This impact area runs through multiple credit categories throughout the rating system.

97. A — Decarbonization, one of LEED v5's three impact areas, addresses both embodied carbon locked into building materials and operational carbon released through ongoing building energy use, pushing toward electrification, renewable energy, and materials choices that measurably reduce a project's total carbon footprint across its complete life cycle. This spans both material and operational emissions sources.

98. C — Project Registration marks the formal start of a project's pursuit of a specific LEED rating system and version, occurring early in the certification workflow before credit documentation, GBCI review, or any final certification decision takes place. This is the genuine first step, not the final step, of the overall certification process sequence.

99. B — A Clarification Request refers to GBCI's formal request for additional documentation or information needed to resolve a specific question arising during its review of a project's submitted certification materials. This is a normal, expected part of the documentation review workflow, not a final rejection or an informal, undocumented conversation. This is a normal, expected part of the review process.

100. D — Domain weighting refers to the proportion of exam questions drawn from each knowledge domain, reflecting each domain's relative share of the actual GBCI exam content, and should meaningfully inform how study time is allocated across topics during exam preparation. Heavily weighted domains like LEED Process and Energy and Atmosphere deserve proportionally more study attention.