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Bulletin: Applicability of Statewide LEED Requirements to CSU			
Effective Date:	January 1, 2024		
From:	Energy, Sustainability & Transportation		

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to inform California State University (CSU) campuses that recently enacted Senate Bill 416¹, *State agencies: building and renovation projects: LEED certification*, and subsequent new language in Government Code §8316 **does not currently apply** to CSU capital projects. The existing California State University Sustainability Policy requires meeting or exceeding compliance with LEED Silver or equivalent.

Government Code §8316² states,

“Except as provided in paragraph (2), all new building and major renovation projects larger than 10,000 gross square feet undertaken by state agencies shall obtain LEED Gold or higher certification using the version of LEED that is in effect at the time the project schematic design documents are initiated by the state agency. Certification to an alternative equivalent or higher rating system or standard, if any, is only acceptable when approved by the Director of General Services.”

However, the legislation as currently written does not apply to the California State University, per §11000 (a)³ of California Government Code:

“As used in this title, “state agency” includes every state office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, and commission. As used in any section of this title that is added or amended effective on or after January 1, 1997, “state agency” does not include the California State University unless the section explicitly provides that it applies to the university.”

CSU Sustainability Policy⁴ currently requires the following, although it may be subject to change in the future.

“The CSU shall design and build all new buildings and major renovations to meet or exceed the minimum requirements equivalent to LEED Silver. Each campus shall strive to achieve a higher standard equivalent to LEED Gold or Platinum within project budget constraints. Each campus may pursue external certification through the LEED process or alternative sustainable building rating systems. If the project is not registered through U.S. Green

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB416

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=8316.

³ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=3.&title=2.&part=1.&chapter=1.&article=1.

⁴ <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/11699668/latest>

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Building Council, then a qualified campus staff member shall evaluate the documentation necessary to determine LEED equivalence and shall attest that equivalence has been achieved.”

Please contact Chief of Energy Sustainability & Transportation Lindsey Rowell at lrowell@calstate.edu, (916) 402-1622; Senior Manager of Energy Sustainability & Transportation Tamara Wallace at twallace@calstate.edu, (562) 951-4296; or University Engineer Rachel Patterson at rpatterson@calstate.edu, (562) 951-4017 with any questions.

Attachments: None

Weblinks:

- Senate Bill 416 *State agencies: building and renovation projects: LEED certification*
 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB416
- California Government Code Section 11000
 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=3.&title=2.&part=1.&chapter=1.&article=1.
- CSU Sustainability Policy
 - <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/11699668/latest>

Applicability: All Structures owned or occupied by the State including Auxiliary Services, Design Services, Permit Process, Construction Services, Public Private Partnerships, Lease and Acquisitions.

End of Bulletin