



LEED® for New Construction (NCv2.2) Rating System Guide for MCAA Contractors

Water Efficiency Credit 1.2

MCAA Contractor Involvement - LOW

One Point - Water Efficient Landscape No Potable Water Use or Irrigation

Intent

Eliminate the use of potable water, or other natural surface or subsurface water resources available on or near the project site, for landscape irrigation.

Requirements

Achieve WE Credit 1.1. and:

Use only captured rainwater, recycled wastewater, recycled greywater, or water treated and conveyed by a public agency specifically for non-potable uses for irrigation.

OR

Install landscaping that does not require permanent irrigation systems. Temporary irrigation systems used for plant establishment are allowed only if removed within one year of installation.

Potential Technologies & Strategies

Perform a soil/climate analysis to determine appropriate landscape types and design the landscape with indigenous plants to reduce or eliminate irrigation requirements. Consider using stormwater, greywater, and/or condensate water for irrigation.

How MCAA Contractors Can Impact This Credit

This LEED credit is largely designed to be achieved using vegetation, site design, and irrigation efficiency to limit the use of potable water for landscape purposes. However, for projects that wish to include a larger collection of plants beyond ferns and other low maintenance plants, the use of irrigation systems might be necessary. In most cases, good plant design and efficient irrigation systems will be enough to reach the 50% water reduction threshold. For this credit, the elimination of potable use for irrigation is required. Unless plant species are limited to hardy native species and no grass, additional methods will be necessary. Greywater, rainwater capturing, municipally provided non-potable water (purple pipe) and blackwater systems are some examples that can be used in these cases.

- [For more information on greywater systems, click here.](#)
- [For more information on rainwater capturing systems, click here.](#)

To achieve this credit, the landscape architect determines the baseline total potable water applied (TPWA) and the Total Water Applied (TWA) for the project's site landscape design. This rate is typically determined using a calculation of area (Square footage, SF), Evapotranspiration rate (ET) and Irrigation Efficiency (IE). If after meeting with the landscape architect, it is determined that additional water saving applications are necessary to meet a 100% reduction in potable water use, determine the amount of reclaimed water necessary to meet the projected goals (gal) for the project.

Synergies Available

- SS credits 6.1 & 6.2 - Stormwater Design
 - WE credit 1.1 - Water Efficient Landscape: Reduce by 50%
 - WE credit 2 - Innovative Wastewater Technologies
 - WE credits 3.1 & 3.2 - Water Use Reduction
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Primary Responsible Parties

The primary responsible party for this credit is the landscape architect.