

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

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THE GREEN REPORT WORKING GREEN

Columbus professionals take the LEED in green accreditation

BY SCOTT RAWDON | FOR BUSINESS FIRST

The U.S. Green Building Council, the organization behind Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards, promotes LEED accreditation as a way for professionals to distinguish themselves as having the knowledge and skill to successfully steward the LEED certification process.

LEED accredited professionals have to demonstrate a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles and the LEED rating system of certified, silver, gold and platinum for environmentally friendly buildings.

Starting this year, the program is administered by the Green Building Certification Institute, established with the support of the U.S. Green Building Council. It handles exam development and delivery to allow for objective management of the credentialing program.

More than 50,000 have earned the credential since the accreditation program was launched in 2001.

Here are the edited and condensed thoughts of three Central Ohio professionals who have taken the time to get accredited.

SCOTT RAWDON is a freelance writer in Columbus



Lesley Avery

Associate | Schottenstein

Zox & Dunn Co. LPA

First attorney in Ohio to qualify for LEED accreditation

LEED accreditation is extremely valuable for lawyers. Any time you have a client that is interested in green building, it's necessary to have an understanding of what green building means and what the different types of green construction are.

As lawyers, we are expected to know and understand all aspects of our clients' businesses, and if our clients are involved in green building, either from a construction, leasing or legislation standpoint, then we as lawyers need to understand the unique issues they might confront.

Accreditation takes a lot of work, but it's definitely worthwhile. The designation shows comprehensive knowledge of the LEED standards for green building. Any developer, builder or prospective purchaser or tenant who is interested in a green building and the LEED standard will want to make sure that they have a LEED accredited professional working with them to provide information on what LEED is and help them navigate the LEED requirements.

Sustainability is not a fad. There are several organizations here in Columbus that are interested in advancing sustainable initiatives. Currently, I'm involved with helping form the U.S. Green Building Council Central Ohio chapter, and I know that everyone involved in that process is excited to organize the chapter.

One thing I would like to be more involved in is the discussion at the municipal level in Columbus about green building and sustainable development initiatives. Columbus has taken some steps in the right direction, but many residents, myself included, would like to see more happen.

LEED ACCREDITATION

What it is: LEED accreditation is available to building industry professionals who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards and the U.S. Green Building Council's Green Building Rating System, enabling them to successfully steward the LEED certification process.

Who has done it: More than 50,000 people have earned the credential since the program was launched in 2001.

Who's responsible: Administration of the program this year went to the Green Building Certification

Institute, established with the support of the U.S. Green Building Council.

How to do it: To be accredited, you have to pass the LEED professional accreditation exam. More information on exam policies and tips is available in the LEED AP Candidate Handbook, available at the Green Building Certification Institute's Web site, gbci.org.

Exam cost: \$300 for Green Building Council members; \$400 for non-members.

Phone number: 800-795-1746

Web site: gbci.org