



# 2026 Enterprise Green Communities: Explore, Learn, Certify

March 19, 2026



# Today's Session

- 1) OBJECTIVES
- 2) 2026 CRITERIA – OVERVIEW, DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
- 3) CONVERSATION WITH PANELISTS
- 4) Q + A (TIME PERMITTING)
- 5) NOTES + NEXT STEPS

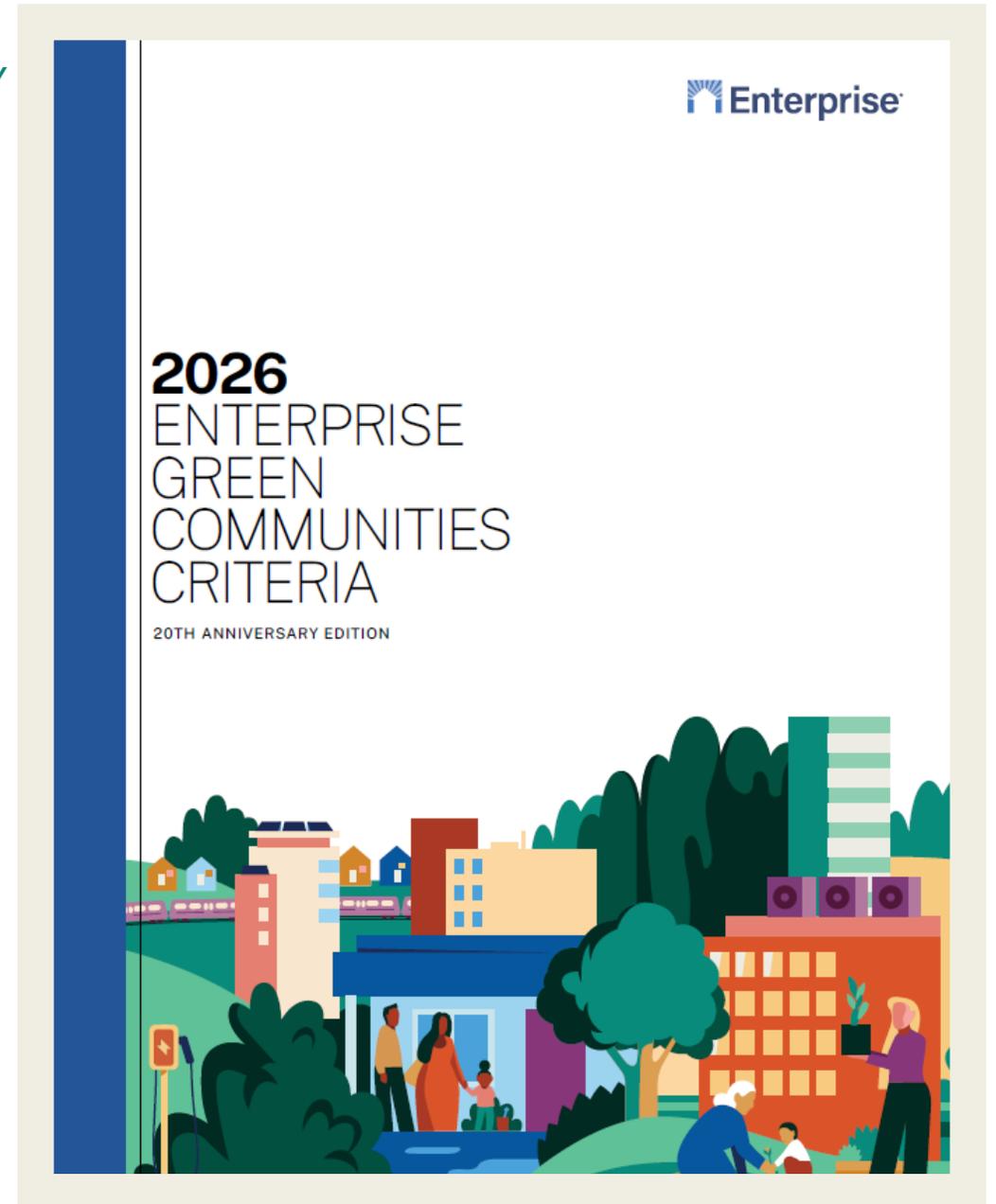
# Objectives

<b>1</b>	An introduction to the major and minor updates to the Green Communities Criteria, from the very experts that helped draft them, giving participants an entry point to explore the new standard.
<b>2</b>	Gain insights into the “What,” “How,” and “Why” of the 2026 Criteria development
<b>3</b>	Consider the positive impacts (project based, globally, etc.) of the decision to certify to the 2026 Criteria

# 2026 Criteria

Updates to the Green Communities Criteria respond to:

- technological advancements
- evaluation outcomes
- environmental, industry, and policy trends
- input from stakeholders

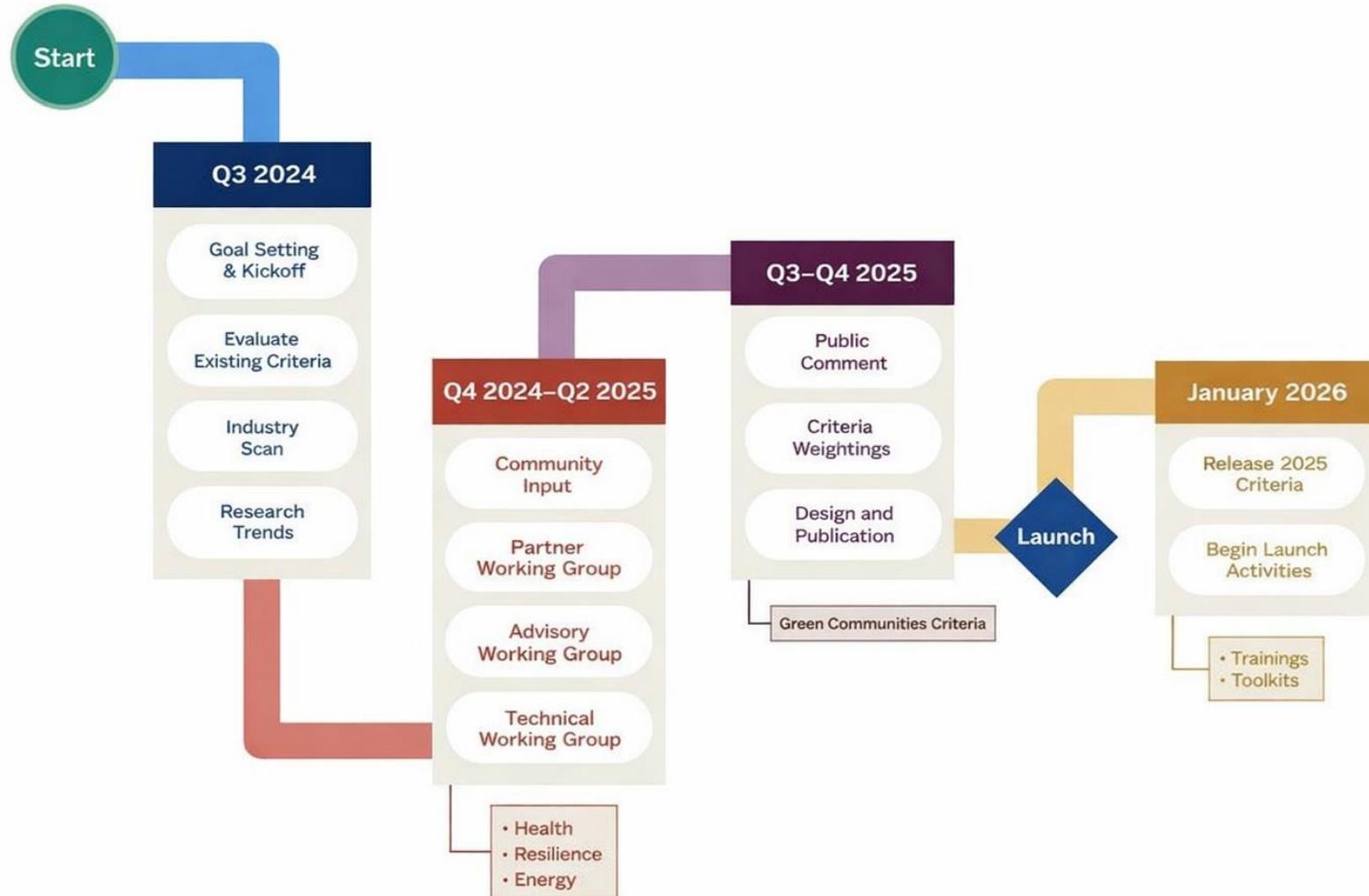


## Core Principles

1. **Achievable** for all affordable housing development types — new construction, substantial and moderate rehab; single family, and low-to high-rise multifamily; urban, suburban, rural & tribal
2. **Cost-effective and proven** green development approaches
3. Designed to deliver **significant health, economic and environmental benefits**, with equity as a primary lens
4. **Technically sound and rigorous** performance standards that are best in class and comparable to other national and regional green residential programs
5. **Measurable and verifiable**, whether through paper or field review

# 2026 Criteria

Criteria development timeline



# 2026 Criteria

The 8 categories of our holistic standard

1. Integrative Design

2. Location + Neighborhood Fabric

3. Site Design

4. Water

5. Energy

6. Materials

7. Healthy Living Environment

8. Operations, Maintenance and Resident Engagement



# 2026 Criteria

Three critical themes within the 2026 Criteria

-  **Energy:** Reducing energy use, cost, and emissions
-  **Health:** Enhancing the health and well-being of residents and communities
-  **Resilience:** Preparing now for livability in light of future hazards and risks

# Impacts



Affordable homes that are healthy, efficient and climate resilient

# 2026 Criteria

Snapshot of the 2026 Criteria + Certification program

- **Eligibility:** All buildings with affordable housing units ( $\leq 60\%$  AMI for rentals,  $\leq 80\%$  AMI for-sale)
- **Project types:** New Construction, Substantial Rehab, Moderate Rehab
- **Typology:** Multifamily and Single-family | certification for individual and/or groups of buildings
- **Achieving certification:** meet all Mandatory criteria + earn Optional points (at least 40 for NC; 35 for Rehabs)
- **Certification levels:** Green Communities | Green Communities Plus | Green Communities Plus Zero Emissions
- **Automatic dual certification:** with WELL for Residential



# Today's Panel



**Katie Ackerly,** AIA, LEED AP, CPHC  
PRINCIPAL + SUSTAINABLE DESIGN  
DIRECTOR  
DAVID BAKER ARCHITECTS



**Erin Ishizaki,** AIA, AICP  
PARTNER  
MITHUN



**Lauren Westmoreland**  
VICE PRESIDENT, ENERGY +  
SUSTAINABILITY  
STEWARDS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR  
THE FUTURE

# COMING SOON: WHAT TO EXPECT

# Launch Resources

How to engage with us on the 2026 Criteria launch

## National Sessions

- ✓ **January 15** Preview Event: 2026 Enterprise Green Communities Criteria
- ✓ **February 19** Live Demo: Introducing the 2026 Criteria
- ✓ **March 10** Highlights of the NYC Overlay of the 2026 Criteria
- ✓ **March 19** Deep Dive: Exploring the 2026 Criteria
  - **April 13** National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.
  - **May 14** Certifying to the 2026 Criteria
  - **Monthly** office hours (Zoom) – Scroll to ‘What’s New’ on [www.greencommunitiesonline.org](http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org)

## Links

- **NYC webinar registration:** <https://cvent.me/02q8rq>
- **National webinar registration:** <https://cvent.me/VaBMM0>
- **Stay Updated:** <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/impact-areas/resilience/green-communities#sign-up>

# Launch Resources

How to engage with us on the 2026 Criteria launch

**Updated templates and toolkits** *ROLLING OUT SPRING + SUMMER 2026*

**Program comparisons** *ROLLING OUT SPRING 2026*

- **Specifications** *ROLLING OUT SUMMER 2026*

- **Certification portal**

- Teams may utilize either the 2020 or 2026 Criteria for projects that are beginning their certification journey this April-September
- Any initial certification Prebuild application submitted October 1<sup>st</sup> or later will use the 2026 Criteria

**Certification mailbox:** [certification@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:certification@enterprisecommunity.org)

**Website:** [www.greencommunitiesonline.org](http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org)

# Thank You



# Please complete the survey:

<https://greencommunities.typeform.com/to/dLHRZA5Y>