



# Certifying to the 2026 Criteria

ENTERPRISE GREEN COMMUNITIES

May 14, 2026



# Today's Session

- 1) **Agenda/ objectives**
- 2) **Why certification**
- 3) **Certification process overview**
- 4) **Demo of updated 2026 Criteria and certification website**
- 5) **Guided tour of the certification portal**
- 6) **What to know about the transition to the 2026 criteria certification process**
- 7) **Q&A**

# Objectives

After today you will be able to:

- **Locate and utilize the 2026 Criteria tools & templates**
- **Access and submit certification applications**
- **Navigate the transition certifying to the 2026 Criteria with confidence**

# WHY CERTIFICATION?

# Enterprise Green Communities

“ We believe, because it is true, that **people are affected by their environment,** by space and scale, by color and texture, by nature and beauty, that they can be uplifted, made to feel important.”

Jim Rouse, Enterprise Co-Founder



# Impacts



Affordable homes that are healthy, efficient and climate resilient

# Impacts

- Green Communities Criteria is the only national green building standard developed **with and for** affordable housers
- More than **241,000** homes certified nationwide
- More than **\$53M** diverted each year from certified homes' energy bills
- **29 states + New York City, Chicago, DC, and Puerto Rico** require or incentivize certification to Green Communities

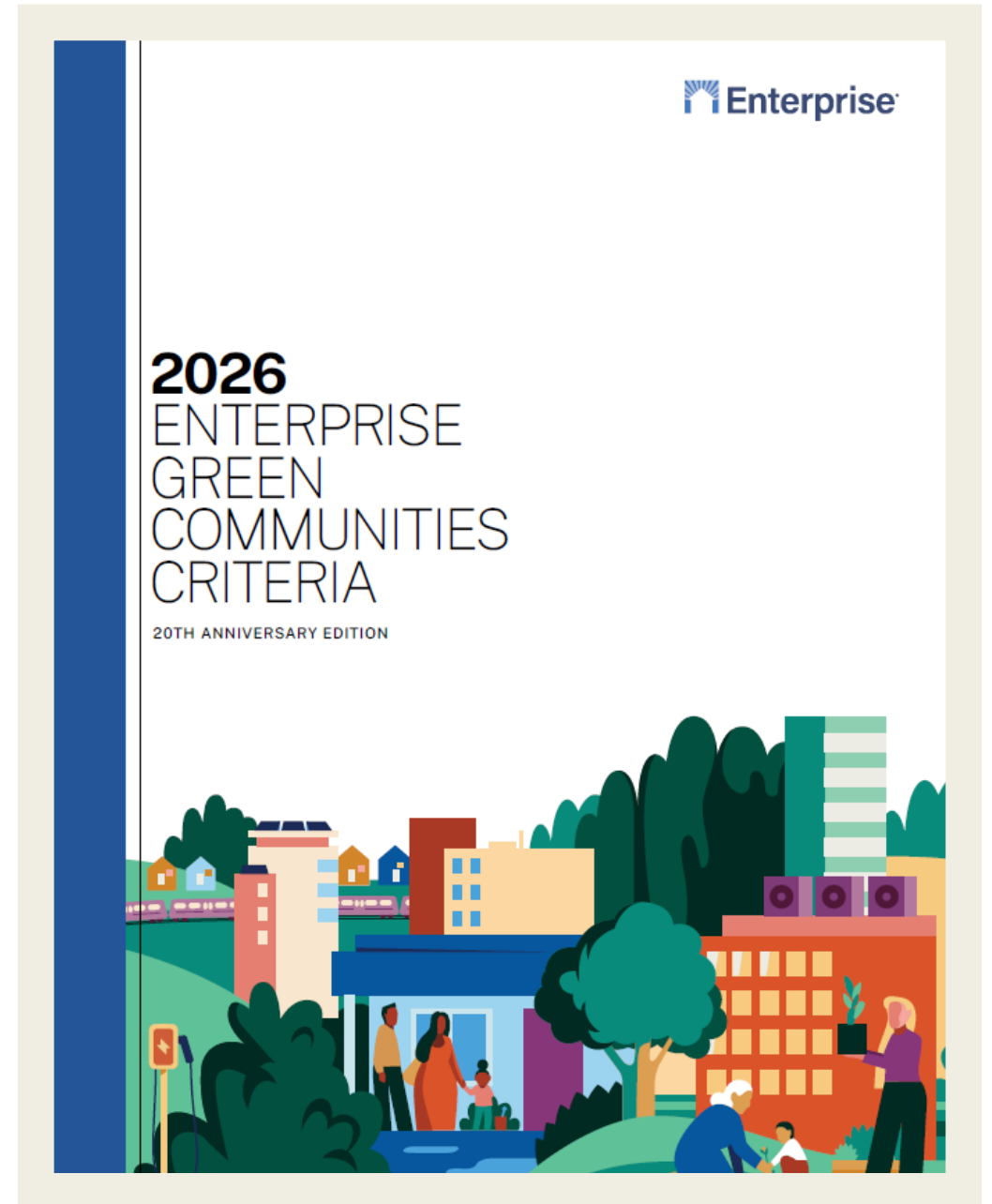


# Certification to the 2026 Criteria

- ✓ Mandatory criteria
- ✓ Optional points
- ✓ Program timelines and protocols



Verification that the project meets the Green Communities standard for affordable housing.



# Available for all projects that include affordable housing



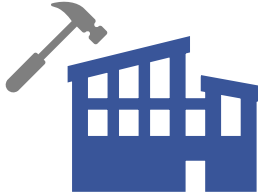
### DWELLING TYPE

- MULTI-FAMILY
- SINGLE-FAMILY



### PROJECT LOCATION

- URBAN
- RURAL



### CONSTRUCTION TYPE

- NEW CONSTRUCTION
- MODERATE & SUBSTANTIAL REHAB

**Healthy, efficient and resilient affordable homes.**



# CERTIFICATION: PROCESS OVERVIEW

# Certification Process

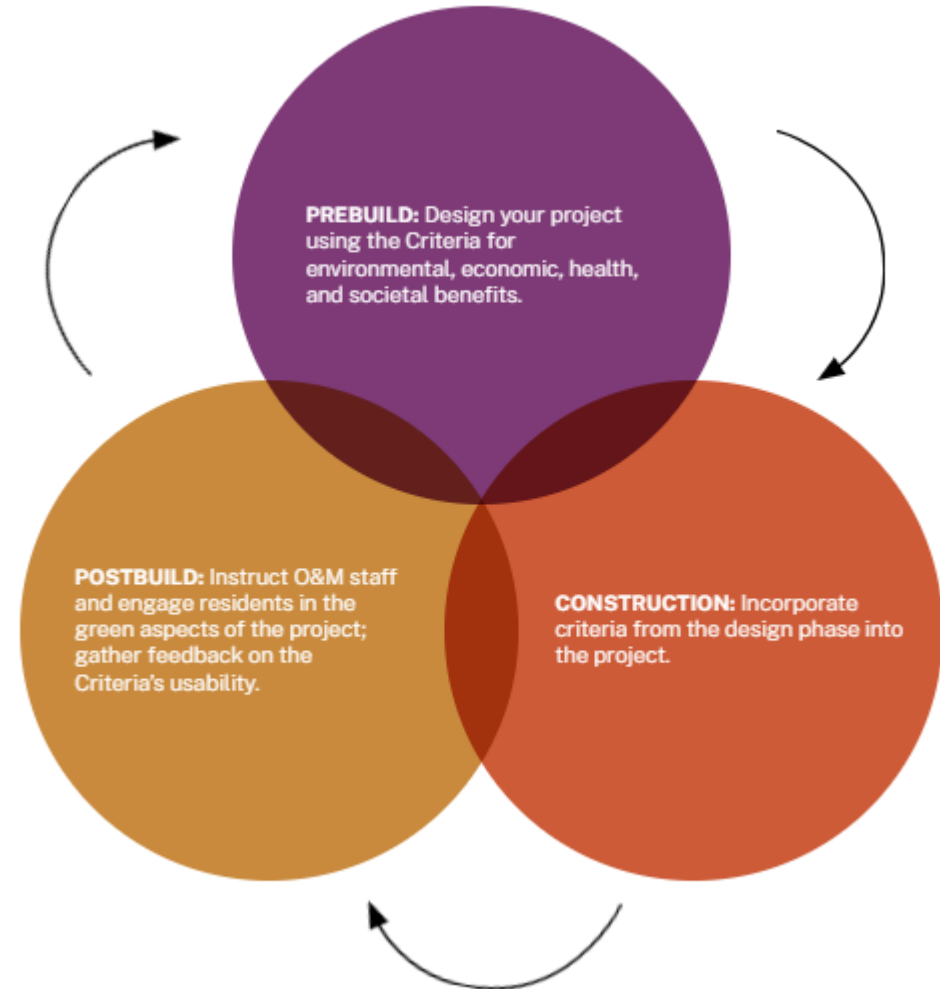
Our standard review window is 30 days, for all first time and re-reviews.

## Focused review *(formerly itemized review)*

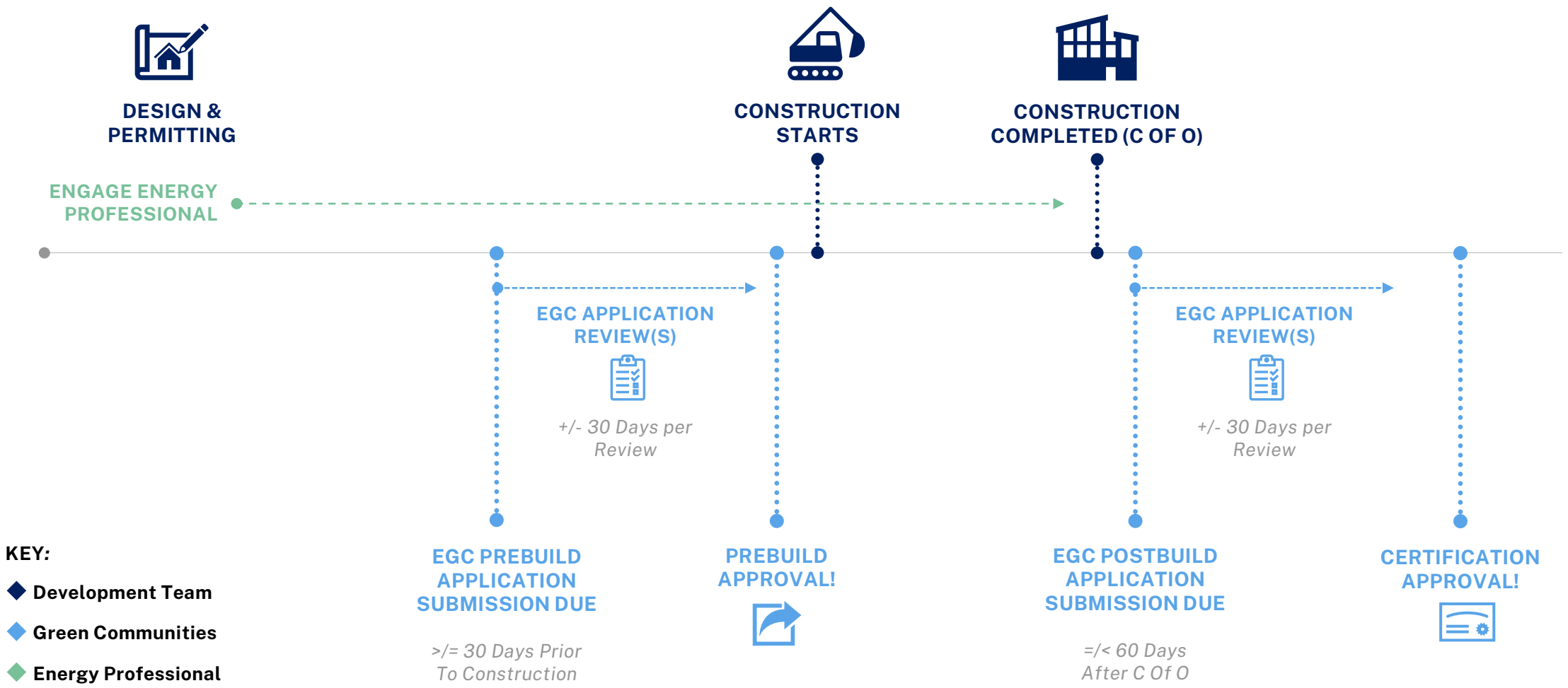
- Recommended for most projects - once minimum compliance is verified, surplus points that cannot be verified are stripped from the application to allow for approval

## Expansive review *(formerly traditional review)*

- Recommended for projects required to achieve compliance above and beyond Enterprise Green Communities' minimum requirements (for example projects mandated by a funder to earn Certification Plus) - every criterion (surplus or not) is verified before the application is approved



# Timeline & Milestones



- KEY:**
- ◆ Development Team
  - ◆ Green Communities
  - ◆ Energy Professional

# CERTIFICATION: COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION

# Compliance Verification



**Step 1:** Confirm applicable requirements

**Step 2:** Access tools & templates

**Step 3:** Provide compliance verification documentation

is Website. You can still access the [2020 Green](#)

requirements by diving into the [Enterprise certification process, tools, and resources](#) in our [on all updates and program news](#).

## n Communities

rise Green Communities has transformed the a, with residents and communities at k. The 2026 edition builds on 20 years nity care. The 2026 edition centers

ost, and emissions

d well-being of residents and communities

rability in light of future hazards and risks

lso features several refinements, including

<a href="#">Home</a>	<b>Table of Contents</b>
<b>PROGRAM INFORMATION</b>	
<a href="#">Program Updates</a>	
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	
<b>GREEN COMMUNITIES CRITERIA</b>	
● <a href="#">2026 Green Communities Criteria NYC Overlay, 2026 Criteria</a>	
▶ <a href="#">2020 Green Communities Criteria NYC Overlay, 2020 Criteria</a>	
<a href="#">2015 Green Communities Criteria</a>	
<a href="#">Achieve Net Zero: the Green Communities Zero Over Time Standard</a>	
<b>CERTIFICATION HUB</b>	
▶ <a href="#">Getting Started: Certification How To's</a>	
▶ <a href="#">Requirements and Eligibility</a>	
<a href="#">Certification Portal</a>	
● <a href="#">Certification Tools and Templates</a>	
<a href="#">Webinars and Trainings</a>	
<a href="#">Certification Plus</a>	
<b>NEXT SECTION</b>	
<a href="#">Program Updates</a>	

# Step 1: Confirm Applicable Requirements

**Filter** criteria by construction type, location and theme

**Tally** optional points

**Download** checklist as a PDF

**Start again!** Reset filter selections and/or clear the checklist

The screenshot shows a web application interface with the following elements:

- Home** and **Table of Contents** navigation tabs.
- FILTER BY CONSTRUCTION TYPE AND LOCATION:**
  - Buttons for **New Construction**, **Substantial Rehab**, and **Moderate Rehab**.
  - Buttons for **Rural / Tribal / Small Towns** and **Urban / Suburban**.
  - A checked checkbox for **Project will follow New York City Overlay**.
- FILTER BY THEME:** Icons for **ENERGY**, **HEALTH** (selected), and **RESILIENCE**.
- RESET:** A circular refresh icon.
- CRITERIA TOTAL:** 0 of 46 Mandatory Criteria, 0 of 65 Optional Points.
- DOWNLOAD:** A download icon.
- CLEAR:** A clear icon.
- PROGRAM INFORMATION:** Links for **Program Updates** and **Contact Us**.
- GREEN COMMUNITIES CRITERIA:**
  - 2026 Green Communities Criteria
    - Introduction
    - ✓ Checklist
      - 1 Integrative Design
      - 2 Location + Neighborhood Fabric
        - 2.1 Ecological Conservation and Safer

# Step 2: Access Tools & Templates

Find **recommendations, resources & templates** embedded within the full criteria

Access **templates** in the Certification Hub under Tools & Templates

The screenshot shows the 'Project Priorities Survey' page. The header includes the Enterprise logo and 'Green Communities Criteria and Certification'. A navigation bar contains 'Home' and 'Table of Contents'. Below the header, there are filter options for 'CONSTRUCTION TYPE AND LOCATION' (New Construction, Substantial Rehab, Moderate Rehab) and 'Rural / Tribal / Small Towns' / 'Urban / Suburban'. A 'Project will follow New York City Overlay' checkbox is present. A 'FILTER BY THEME' section includes icons for Energy, Health, and Resilience. A 'CRITERIA TOTAL' section shows 0 of 40 Mandatory Criteria and 0 of 35 Optional Points. A 'GREEN COMMUNITIES CRITERIA' sidebar lists sections: Introduction, Checklist, 1 Integrative Design (with sub-items 1.1-1.7), 2 Location + Neighborhood Fabric, 3 Site Design, 4 Water, 5 Energy, 6 Materials, 7 Healthy Living Environment, and 8 Operations, Maintenance, and Resident Engagement. The main content area is titled '1.1 Project Priorities Survey' and includes a 'RECOMMENDATIONS' section with several bullet points and a 'RESOURCES' section with a link to 'ECP Project Priorities Survey'.

The screenshot shows the 'Certification Tools and Templates' page. The header includes the Enterprise logo and 'Green Communities Criteria and Certification'. A navigation bar contains 'Home' and 'Table of Contents'. Below the header, there are sections for '2026 Documentation Instructions' (with a link to '2026 Documentation Instructions\_National & NYC Overlay'), 'Templates for submissions', and three numbered sections: '1.1 Project Priorities Survey' (with a link to 'ECP Project Priorities Survey'), '1.6 Design for Health and Well-being: Health Action Plan' (with a link to '1.6-Health Action Plan Instructions and Template\_0.xlsx'), and '1.7 Inclusive Community Engagement' (with links to '1.7 Option 1\_Cultural Resilience Assessment Worksheet\_0.docx' and '1.7 Option 2\_Cultural Advisory Group Template\_0.docx'). A right-hand sidebar contains a 'Table of Contents' menu with categories: PROGRAM INFORMATION, GREEN COMMUNITIES CRITERIA, CERTIFICATION HUB, and Certification Tools and Templates. The 'Certification Tools and Templates' section is expanded, showing links to '2026 Documentation Instructions', '2020 Documentation Instructions', and '2015 Documentation Instructions Research & Reports'. At the bottom, there are 'PREVIOUS SECTION Certification Portal' and 'NEXT SECTION Webinars and Trainings' buttons.

# Step 3: Provide Compliance Verification Documentation

The 2026 Criteria Certification Documentation Instructions Excel Workbook details **compliance verification and documentation requirements** by individual criterion and project phase.

Compliance documentation is submitted through the **Enterprise Green Communities Portal**

Criterion #	Criterion Name	Project type requirements	PREBUILD		POSTBUILD	
			Required for "Additional Information" field	Documents required	Required for "Additional Information" field	Documents required
<b>1 - INTEGRATIVE DESIGN</b>						
1	Final Project Report	Must be a general	Yes	Refer to 1.1 Final Project Report, which requires that the 2026 Criteria Report and results of environmental assessment.	Yes	Yes
2	Climate & Carbon Footprint	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the climate goals set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for reducing carbon footprint.	Yes	Yes
3	Energy & Water Conservation	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the energy and water conservation goals set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for reducing energy and water consumption.	Yes	Yes
4	Construction Management Plan	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the construction management plan requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for minimizing construction impacts.	Yes	Yes
5	Design to Build and High Quality Design	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the design to build and high quality design requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for ensuring high quality design.	Yes	Yes
6	Green Building & Energy Efficiency	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the green building and energy efficiency requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for achieving green building and energy efficiency goals.	Yes	Yes
<b>2 - DESIGN &amp; ARCHITECTURE BASIC</b>						
7	Design Excellence and Quality	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the design excellence and quality requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for achieving design excellence and quality goals.	Yes	Yes
8	Construction Quality Management	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the construction quality management requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for ensuring construction quality management.	Yes	Yes
9	Design to Build and High Quality Design	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the design to build and high quality design requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for ensuring high quality design.	Yes	Yes
10	Green Building & Energy Efficiency	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the green building and energy efficiency requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for achieving green building and energy efficiency goals.	Yes	Yes
11	Design Excellence and Quality	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the design excellence and quality requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for achieving design excellence and quality goals.	Yes	Yes
12	Construction Quality Management	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the construction quality management requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for ensuring construction quality management.	Yes	Yes
13	Design to Build and High Quality Design	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the design to build and high quality design requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for ensuring high quality design.	Yes	Yes
14	Green Building & Energy Efficiency	Must be a general	Yes	Must address the green building and energy efficiency requirements set forth in the 2026 Criteria Report. Must include a plan for achieving green building and energy efficiency goals.	Yes	Yes

# Example: Integrative Design

## 1.1 Project Priority Survey (PPS)



**Requirement:** During predevelopment and design gather readily available information pertaining to your project, understand the issues your development must address, design in response to context, place, and people being served.



**Tool:** The Project Priority Survey template serves as a simple way to organize and understand information. This tool helps shape project goals and strategic decision-making among competing priorities.



**Verification Documentation:** Submit a complete PPS to demonstrate your project was designed per the requirements.

# PORTAL TOUR

[WWW.E360COMMUNITY.COM/ENT\\_COMMUNITY\\_LOGIN\\_FRM](http://WWW.E360COMMUNITY.COM/ENT_COMMUNITY_LOGIN_FRM)

# THE 2026 TRANSITION: WHAT TO KNOW

# What to know: transition timeline



# What to know: 2026 tools

- Energy and Ventilation Verification Template **(criteria 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7 & 7.5)**
- Site Erosion and Sedimentation Control **(criterion 3.4)**
- Material Screening & Selection Tool **(criteria 6.1 & 6.4)**
- Moisture Management Template & Checklist **(criterion 7.9 a/b)**
- Manual templates and cover sheets: **O&M, Emergency Management, Resident**
- Program comparisons **(LEED / EGC)**
- Construction Specifications – **hooray!**

# What to know: new documentation tips



**Criterion:** 1.2 Collaborative meetings & Integrative Design

**New process:** No minutes or worksheet! Just briefly tell us what happened within your application.



**Criterion:** 2.9 Access to Broadband

**New process:** Determine compliance pathway using the FCC National Broadband Map



**Criteria:** 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7 & 7.5 (Energy and Ventilation)

**New process:** All documentation organized in one workbook!



**Criteria:** 8.5 Energy and Water Data Collection and Monitoring

**New process:** screen shot building dashboard

# What to know: transition features

- **Improved interface navigation :**
  - Website enhancements
    - Certification hub
    - Theme filter
    - Access to case studies
  - Portal updates (in addition to 2026 content)
    - Help bubbles feature throughout
    - Direct access to website resources from application
- **Support and communication**
  - Standing monthly office hours
  - Regular program updates on website
  - Direct communication (register in the portal!)
  - Upcoming tools demo workshop (September TBD)

# What to know: new submission fee & structure

- **Existing fees:** (expire September 30, 2026)
  - Prebuild: \$1,250
  - Postbuild: \$300
  - Re-review: \$200 (third review for each phase)
  - Waiver request reviews: N/A
- **New fees:** (active October 1, 2026)
  - Prebuild: \$3,000
  - Postbuild: N/A
  - Re-review: \$200 (third review)
  - Waiver request reviews: N/A

# What to know: new submission fee & structure

- **Simplified process** (one and done!)
- **Supports access to tools and enhancements shared today**
- **Reflection of the cost of the application process** (initial inquiries, technical support, waiver and application reviews)
- **Remains competitive with our peers while serving the affordable housing sector**

# What to know: transition timeline



# Q & A



# What to do now?

- Review project timelines and goals with your teams to **determine 2026 applicability**
- Ensure projects pursuing the 2020 Criteria are poised to **submit prebuild before October**
- **Look out for info** on new resources and tools, and upcoming events
- **Read up** on the new compliance protocols
- **Orient** to the new features of the website and portal

Questions?

**The Green Communities Team has answers.**

**Reach out!** [certification@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:certification@enterprisecommunity.org)

# Thank you

 Enterprise



**We are here  
for impact.  
We are here  
for change.  
Join us.**

 **Enterprise**

