# ENTERPRISE GREEN COMMUNITIES 2020 CRITERIA + ILFI CORE CERTIFICATION CROSSWALK

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For the purposes of this crosswalk, the focus is on alignment between New Construction (Green Communities) and New Building (Core) pathways, as these represent the majority of affordable housing projects pursuing ILFI's Core Certification and the most likely projects to be pursuing both Core and Enterprise Green Communities. This crosswalk highlights the significant areas of intersection between identified criteria from the Green Communities Standard and each of the ten Core Imperatives. Note that the full text and requirements for each Imperative and Criteria are not represented here - only the directly aligned requirements. Please refer to the Core Petal Handbooks or the Enterprise Green Communities Standard to view the full requirements for each standard.

| | Enterprise Green Communities 2020 Criteria | ILFI Core Certification | Alignment |
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| | PROJECT SCOPE | | |
| ***Project Scope*** | Restricted to buildings with affordable housing units (defined as 60% AMI for rentals and 80% AMI for homeownership units). Green Communities includes explicit pathways for New Construction, Rehabilitation, and projects located in Rural/Tribal/Small Town contexts. | Available for all project types. There are defined pathways for New Buildings, Existing Buildings, Interior, and Landscape + Infrastructure. | All projects that qualify for certification under Green Communities can also certify under Core. Core projects may only certify under Green Communities if they have affordable housing units. |
| ***Certification Timing*** | At close of construction | Final Certification takes place after a 12- month performance period; an initial audit occurs at close of construction. | The timing of certification varies between the standards. Project teams are encouraged to prepare as much documentation for Core certification as possible for the initial audit immediately after construction. |
| ***Combustion*** | Permitted | Not permitted in New Buildings; exceptions in very limited circumstances | If newly constructed, all-electric Green Communities projects are eligible for Core (or any other ILFI) certification. |
| ***Scoring*** | Green Communities operates on a point system with some criterion identified as Mandatory and others identified as Optional, such that project teams choose which criteria to apply for the desired number of points. | All ten Core Imperatives must be achieved in full in order to achieve Core Certification. If a project team wishes to pursue additional Imperatives, they may achieve the full Water, Energy, and/or Materials Petal in addition to all Core Imperatives and achieve Petal Certification. A project may also choose to pursue Living Certification and achieve all Living Building Challenge Imperatives. | It is important to note that, in addition to the differences in scoring noted in this row, Core Imperatives are generally performance-based and project teams must use actual data gathered after a 12-month performance period to demonstrate compliance. As Green Communities is awarded upon completion of construction, it is generally based on project design and modeled performance. |
| *(M=Mandatory, O=Optional)* | CORE IMPERATIVE C1 ECOLOGY OF PLACE | | |
| ***INTEGRATIVE DESIGN*** *Green Communities Criteria 1.1 Integrative Design: Project Priorities Survey; 1.2: Integrative Design: Charrettes and Coordination Meetings: 1.3: Integrative Design: Documentation; 1.4: Integrative Design: Construction Management (M)* | Green Communities requires filling out a Project Priorities Survey, utilizing collaborative meetings and charrettes (within the team and with the community), documenting Green Criteria information in drawings and specifications, and creating an education plan for contractors and consultants. | Along with additional ecological requirements (see Core Handbook for the full Imperative language), all project teams must assess cultural and social equity factors and needs in the community and consider those identified needs to inform design and process decisions. Projects must answer a list of "Essential Questions: with respect to the site and community. The implementation is flexible, but teams must develop an understanding of the neighborhood/community and its identity, needs, and assets, and factor into the decision-making how the project address these needs and impact the community. | Project teams can likely utilize the specific strategies and options required by Enterprise Green Communities 2020 Criteria in order to help meet the social and equity requirements of C1 Ecology of Place under Core Certification. C1 is less prescriptive and does not have the same list of requirements as in Green Communities, but many of the strategies outlined in Green Communities, particularly those regarding cultural resilience and identifying the needs of the community appear to be aligned with the requirements of C1 and can likely contribute to achievement of that Imperative. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 1.5: Design for Health and Well-Being: Health Action Plan (O)* | Projects may pursue optional points by creating a Health Action Plan. | | |
| *Green Communities Criterion 1.6: Resilient Communities: Multi-Hazard/Vulnerability Assessment (O)* | Projects may pursue optional points by creating a Multi-Hazard Risk/Vulnerabilities Assessment to identify risks of climate change and natural disasters and build resiliency. | | |
| *Green Communities Criterion 1.7: Resilient Communities: Strengthening Cultural Resilience (O)* | Projects may pursue additional points by strengthening cultural resilience through 1 of 2 options: completing a cultural resilience assessment or convening a cultural advisory group. | | |

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| ***LOCATION + NEIGHBORHOOD FABRIC***<br>*Green Communities Criterion 2.1: Sensitive Site Protection (M)* | All projects must:<br>1. Protect floodplain functions (e.g., storage, habitat, water quality) by limiting new development within the 100-year floodplain of all types of watercourses.<br>2. Conserve and protect aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands and deepwater habitats, that provide critical ecosystem functions for fish, other wildlife, and people.<br>3. Protect ecosystem function by avoiding the development of areas that contain habitat for plant and animal species identified as threatened or endangered.<br>4. Conserve the most productive agricultural soils by protecting prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. | Protect wild and ecologically significant places and encourage ecological regeneration and enhanced function of the communities and places where projects are built.<br><br>All projects must avoid building on pristine greenfield, wilderness, prime farmland or in a floodplain unless they meet an Exception. Projects must preserve thriving vibrant ecological environments and habitats.<br><br>All project teams must document site and community conditions prior to the start of work, including but not limited to identification of the project's Reference Habitat.<br><br>All projects must demonstrate that they contribute positively to the ecology of their place and restore or enhance the ecological performance of the site toward a healthy ecological baseline. | Both certifications restrict building in floodplains and on prime farmland, with limited allowances. Green Communities restricts building in aquatic ecosystems and areas that contain habitat for threatened or endangered animal species, while the Ecology of Place Imperative in Core restricts building in wilderness (defined as any wild or uncultivated region, which includes aquatic ecosystems) and on all greenfield sites.<br><br>Core also requires that project teams go beyond avoiding building in specific areas to performing an assessment to demonstrate the project's Reference Habitat and how the project contributes positively to the enhancement of the ecological performance of the site.<br><br>Achievement of C1: Ecology of Place is likely sufficient to demonstrate compliance with Green Communities Criterion 2.1: Sensitive Site Protection; however, project teams will need to ensure that they avoid building in the specific ecological regions defined by each standard. Core project teams will also need to demonstrate some level of ecological restoration of the site, even when building only in the allowed site areas. |
| ***SITE IMPROVEMENT***<br>*Green Communities Criterion 3.1: Environmental Remediation (M)* | Determine whether there are any hazardous materials present on-site by conducting either 1) a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, 2) a Tier II Environmental Review Assessment per HUD funding requirements, 3) an environmental site assessment approved by HUD through the Part 50 or Part 58 process, or 4) an environmental assessment approved by USDA through the 1970 process, and any additional required assessments.<br><br>If an environmental site assessment reveals any hazardous materials, mitigate | Although a site assessment is not required, for purposes of the Living Building Challenge, brownfields are contaminated and must be remediated, regardless of official designation. Brownfields may either be officially designated or, whenever there is reasonable suspicion that the site is contaminated, be tested to verify contamination. The method of remediation should be determined by a credible authority. | Both standards require remediation of contaminated sites. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 3.3: Ecosystem Services/Landscape (M)* | If providing plantings, all plantings (trees, shrubs and groundcover, including grasses) should be native or climate-appropriate (adapted) to the region. All new plantings must be appropriate to the site's soil and microclimate. Do not introduce any invasive plant species. All disturbed areas should be planted, seeded, or xeriscaped. | On-site landscape must be designed to mature and evolve, and to emulate the functionality of the Reference Habitat, as appropriate to the project's Transect. | Both standards require using only native or adapted landscaping. |
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| | CORE IMPERATIVE C2 HUMAN SCALED LIVING | | |
| ***LOCATION + NEIGHBORHOOD FABRIC***<br>*Green Communities Criterion 2.2 Connections to Existing Development and Infrastructure (Mandatory except for Rural, Tribal, Small Town)* | All projects must connect to existing development and infrastructure, including road, water, sewer, pedestrian network and sidewalks, all-weather pathways, adjacent street networks, and planned bike paths/lanes. | Along with additional requirements (see Core Handbook for full Imperative language), all projects (except single-family residential) must:<br>All projects (except single-family residential) must: | Both Green Communities and Core reference the enhancement of pedestrian routes. Green Communities Criterion 2.2 requires additional connections related to the existing infrastructure, while C2: Human Scaled Living has additional requirements related to other best practices for reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips. Complying with the additional requirements of Criterion 2.2 may help a project achieve a 30% reduction in SOV trips in order to help comply with C2. Neither C2 nor Criterion 2.2 Connections to Existing Development and Infrastructure are sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the other one fully, but there is an overlap in requirements. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 2.8: Access to Transit (Mandatory except for Rural, Tribal, Small Town)* | Mandatory: Locate projects within a 0.5-mile walk distance of public transit services (bus, rail, and/or ferry) that combined constitute at least 45 or more transit rides per weekday and include<br>some type of weekend service.<br><br>Optional: Locate the project along dedicated bike trails or lanes (Class I, II or IV) that lead to high-quality transit services (100 or more trips per day) within 3 miles. | Provide sufficient secure, weather-protected storage for human-powered vehicles and facilities, such as showers and lockers, to encourage biking.<br>Provide at least two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations or one per thirty spaces, whichever is greater.<br><br>Either reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips and trips by fossil fuel-based vehicles by 30% over an established baseline relevant to the project's region and occupancy type; or<br>Implement at least four best practices (including options such as transit subsidy or car sharing) | Both C2 and Criterion 2.8 have the goal of reducing single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips. Pursuing Criterion 2.8 would likely help teams reach the requirement of C2 to reduce SOV trips by 30%. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 2.9: Improving Connectivity to the Community (O)* | Improve access to community amenities through a list of options such as bicycle storage, bicycle share, transportation passes, car share, etc. | | C2 requires bicycle storage for 15% of occupants (although more is recommended for residential projects); bicycle storage is available as an option under Green Communities Criterion 2.9, but at least one bicycle parking space must be provided per unit. Both C2 and 2.9 provide an additional list of options/best practices to choose from, many of which are aligned in requirements. Teams can likely find sufficient overlap in strategies to assist in achieving both. |

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| *Green Communities Criterion 2.3 Compact Development (M)* | All projects must build to the residential density (dwelling units/ acre) of the census block group where the project is located. | All projects must maintain or increase the density of the site and support a human-powered lifestyle. | C2: Human Scaled Living and Green Communities Criterion 2.3: Compact Development are aligned in goals. The distinction between the standards is that Criterion 2.3 requires that projects build to the density of the census block, while Core requires that projects increase or maintain the original density of the site itself, based on FAR. However, it is likely that project teams would be able to achieve both requirements simultaneously by prioritizing density in the siting and massing of the project. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 2.7: Preservation and Access to Open Space (O)* | Locate the project near public open space or set aside open space on the project site (25-45% of site). | Provide places for occupants to gather and connect with the community. | Both C2 and Criterion 2.7 require space set aside. C2 does not require a specific percentage of the site to be dedicated as open space, but encourages teams to find creative ways to foster community interaction (such as pocket parks, plazas, seating areas, etc). Criterion 2.7 allows the option to provide access to off site open space areas, while C2 requires that these areas be on site. If teams are pursuing both Core and Green Communities, they can likely find a solution that satisfies the requirements of both. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C3 RESPONSIBLE WATER USE | | |
| ***SITE IMPROVEMENT*** *Green Communities Criterion 3.4: Surface Stormwater Management (M)* | Treat or retain, on-site, the precipitation volume from the 60th percentile precipitation event as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act. | Among additional requirements (see Core Standard for details), projects must treat all stormwater on site, through natural or mechanical means and without chemicals, and manage all stormwater based on both pre-development hydrology and current ecological conditions, as determined by a qualified professional. | Green Communities Criterion 3.4 requires treating or retaining 60% of the stormwater on site; Core Imperative C3: Responsible Water Use requires treating stormwater to specified levels and managing the rate and volume based on the downstream context of the site and historic run-off rates. It is likely that projects achieving C3 would meet the requirements of Criterion 3.4; however, teams will need to perform calculations to verify the requirements of both. Projects achieving Criterion 3.4 may or may not achieve C3, as C3 has a higher threshold for performance. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 3.5: Surface Stormwater Management (O)* | Through on-site infiltration, evapotranspiration, and rainwater harvesting, retain the maximum precipitation volume possible beyond the requirements of Criterion 3.4 precipitation on-site.<br>Retain precipitation volume for the following percentile precipitation events:<br>70th percentile precipitation event 6 points<br>80th percentile precipitation event 8 points<br>90th percentile precipitation event 10 points<br>Seventieth, 80th, and 90th percentile precipitation events are defined by the U.S. Environmental<br>Protection Agency in the Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements<br>for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act. | All projects must treat all stormwater on site, through natural or mechanical means and without chemicals, and manage all stormwater based on both pre-development hydrology and current ecological conditions, as determined by a qualified professional. | Green Communities 3.5 requires treating or retaining 70-90% of the stormwater on site; C3 requires treating stormwater to specified levels and managing the rate and volume based on the downstream context of the site and historic run-off rates. It is likely that projects achieving C3 would meet the requirements of Green Communities 3.5; however, teams will need to calculate based on the requirements of both. Projects achieving Criterion 3.4 may or may not achieve C3, as C3 has a higher threshold for performance in some contexts. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 3.6: Efficient Irrigation and Water Reuse (M)* | If irrigation is utilized, install an efficient irrigation system. These irrigation requirements are mandatory only for permanent landscaping that requires regular irrigation. | All projects must not use potable water for irrigation. | Green Communities requires an efficient irrigation system and encourages using non-potable water sources, whereas C3 requires no potable water for irrigation. The standards are aligned in intent, but projects will need to meet the requirements of both independently. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 3.7: Efficient Irrigation and Water Reuse (O)* | Projects must meet the mandatory requirement of Criterion 3.6 and either 1) install an efficient irrigation system equipped with a WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller (WBIC) or 2) use 50% non-potable water for irrigation (treated greywater, rainwater, municipally sourced recycled water, air conditioning condensate, or blowdown water from boilers and cooling towers)> | | Green Communities allows for the option of either installing an efficient irrigation system or using 50% non-potable water sources for irrigation, whereas C3 requires no potable water for irrigation. Projects meeting the requirements of C3 should also meet the requirements of Criterion 3.7. |
| ***WATER*** *Green Communities Criterion 4.1: Water-Conserving Fixtures (M)* | Reduce total indoor water consumption by at least 20% compared a baseline. | New buildings must reduce water use (excluding irrigation) by 50% from a baseline. | Projects meeting C3 should meet the requirements of Criterion 4.1. However, note that C3 will be based on metered data from building operations, whereas Criterion 4.1 is based on modeled data. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 4.2: Advanced Water Conservation (O)* | Reduce total indoor water consumption by 30 - 60% compared a baseline. Any new toilet, showerhead, and/or lav faucet that is installed in the project must be WaterSense certified. | New buildings must reduce water use (excluding irrigation) by 50% from a baseline. | Projects meeting C3 should meet the requirements of Green Communities 4.2 up to the 50% threshold for points. Projects will need to confirm that fixtures are WaterSense certified. Additionally, note that C3 will be based on metered data from building operations, whereas Criterion 4.1 is based on modeled data. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C4 ENERGY + CARBON REDUCTION | | |
| ***LOCATION + NEIGHBORHOOD FABRIC*** *Green Communities Criterion 2.11: Adaptive Reuse of Buildings (O)* | Rehabilitate and adapt an existing structure that was not previously used as housing. Design the project to adapt, renovate, or reuse at least 50% of the existing structure and envelope (includes exterior skin and framing and excludes window assemblies and non-structural roofing). | New and Existing projects must demonstrate a twenty percent reduction in the embodied carbon of primary materials compared to an equivalent baseline. Existing buildings may count in-situ primary materials against the required twenty percent. | The requirements and goals of Core Imperative C4: Energy + Carbon Reduction and Green Communities Criterion 2.11 are different; however, the reuse of buildings and/or building components as required in 2.11 will help a project team achieve the embodied carbon reductions required in C4. Project teams should be able to align strategies for both if they are able to reuse or adapt building components. |

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| ***OPERATING ENERGY*** *Green Communities Criterion 5.1a: Building Performance Standard (M)* | Certify all buildings with residential units in the project through the ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction Program using ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction (MFNC), ENERGY STAR Manufactured Homes and/or ENERGY STAR Certified Homes. | Reduce energy by 70% from an equivalent building baseline. | Core uses Zero Tool as the standard baseline, but accepts ENERGY STAR as a baseline for residential projects. Though certification through ENERGY STAR is not required for compliance with Core, projects achieving C4 will likely meet the requirements of Green Communities Criterion 5.1a. Note that compliance with C4 is based on performance data after a year of occupancy, whereas Criterion 5.1a is based on projected data. |
| ***OPERATING ENERGY*** *Green Communities Criterion 5.2a: Moving to Zero Energy: Additional Reductions in Energy Use (O)* | Design and construct a building that is projected to be more efficient than what is required of the project by Criteria 5.1a by showing a HERS Score at least 5 lower than required or 5% greater efficiency than required by the ASHRAE path. | Reduce energy by 70% from an equivalent building baseline. | Core uses Zero Tool as the standard baseline, but accepts ENERGY STAR as a baseline for residential projects. Though certification through ENERGY STAR is not required for compliance with Core, projects achieving C4 will likely meet the requirements of Green Communities 5.1a. Note that compliance with C4 is based on performance data after a year of occupancy, whereas Criterion 5.2a is based on projected data. Additionally, note the energy generated through renewable energy cannot contribute towards the energy savings for Criterion 5.2a, but can be included in the energy reductions for C4. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 5.3a: Moving to Zero Energy: Photovoltaic/Solar Hot Water Ready (O)* | Orient, design, engineer, wire, and/or plumb the development through one of the following options to accommodate installation of a PV or solar hot water system in the future.<br>Option 1: PV Ready<br>Submit a complete Department of Energy ZERH PV Ready Checklist.<br>Option 2: Solar Hot Water Ready<br>Submit a complete Department of Energy ZERH Solar Hot Water Ready Checklist. | All projects must be designed to be “zero ready” through strategies such as designating area(s) and/or pre-installing wiring and connections for both electric vehicle charging and future installation of renewable energy systems. | Projects achieving C4 will likely meet the requirements of Green Communities 5.2c, but will need to submit the required checklist for Green Communities. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 5.4: Achieving Zero Energy (O)* | Achieve Zero Energy performance for the project by: 1) certifying under DOE ZERH; 2) installing and/or procuring (through Green-e RECs, community solar, or virtual power purchase agreement) renewable energy that produces as much, or more energy, in a year than the project is modeled to consume; or 3) certifying under a performance-based Zero Energy standard including PHIUS+ Source Zero, PHI Plus, PHI Premium, ILFI's Zero Energy Standard, Zero Carbon Standard, Energy Petal, or Living Certification. | Core does not require Zero Energy performance, but instead requires Zero Energy level EUIs and Zero Ready building; these steps may mean that actual Zero Energy performance is within reach for many projects. | Achievement of Zero Energy, Zero Carbon, Energy Petal, or Living Building Challenge automatically achieves this Criteria. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 5.5b: Moving to Zero Carbon: All Electric (O)* | Apart from emergency backup power, no combustion equipment used as part of the building project; the project is all-electric. | No combustion allowed except in limited circumstances. | Criterion 5.5b and C4 are aligned in the requirement to not allow combustion equipment. Note that the allowances for combustion-powered emergency backup power may not meet the Exceptions allowed in Core. Any project teams using any combustion-based equipment should refer to the Energy Petal Handbook for specific Exceptions. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C5 HEALTHY INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT | | |
| ***HEALTHY LIVING ENVIRONMENT*** *Green Communities Criterion 7.6: Smoke Free Policy (M and O)* | A smoke-free policy for all common areas and within a 25-foot perimeter of the exterior of the building is mandatory for all projects and must be included in lease language. Projects may achieve additional points by expanding the policy to include all indoor spaces in the property. | Prohibit smoking within any buildings or enclosed spaces, and within 25’ of any building opening, including air supply vents. | Compliance with Core Imperative C5 Healthy Interior Environment should allow the project to comply with mandatory and optional requirements of Green Communities Criterion 7.6. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 7.7: Ventilation (M for New Construction)* | For each dwelling unit, in full accordance with ASHRAE 62.2-2010, install:<br>• A local mechanical exhaust system in each bathroom<br>• A local mechanical exhaust system in each kitchen<br>• A whole-house mechanical ventilation system<br>Verify and ensure that these dwelling unit ventilation system flow rates are either within +/- 15 CFM or +/- 15% of design value. | Comply with the current version of ASHRAE 62, or international equivalent.<br><br>Provide direct exhaust for kitchens, bathrooms, and janitorial areas. | Criterion 7.7 is aligned with the ventilation and exhaust requirements in C5. Achieving C5 would likely allow a project team to comply with Criterion 7.7. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C6 RESPONSIBLE MATERIALS | | |
| *Green Communities Criterion 6.1: Ingredient Transparency for Material Health (O)* | Specify and install products that have inventories that have been publicly disclosed where content is characterized and screened using health hazard lists or restricted substances lists to 1,000 ppm or better.<br><br>1 point per 5 installed Declare or HPD products from at least three different product categories<br>• 1 point per 2 installed Declare or HPD products in any of these high-priority product categories:<br>adhesives, sealants, windows<br>• 1 point per each product with third-party verified HPD or third-party verified Declare label<br>• 2 points per each product with third-party verified HPD or third-party verified Declare label in any of these high-priority product categories: adhesives, sealants, windows | All projects must positively impact the building products market by meeting the following materials selection criteria:<br><br>The project must contain one Declare label product per 200 square meters (sm) of gross building area, or project area, whichever is smaller, up to twenty distinct products from five manufacturers. All other product manufacturers not currently in Declare must, at a minimum, receive a letter requesting they disclose their ingredients and identify any Red List content. | Complying with Core Imperative C6: Responsible Materials by using Declare-labeled products will allow a team to earn points under Criteria 6.1. |

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| *Green Communities Criterion 6.3: Chemical Hazard Optimization (O)* | Install products that have third-party verification for materials health to 100 ppm through a list of approved standards including: Third-party verified Declare label with a Red List Free status; Third-party verified Declare Label with a Red List Approved status (if only exemption is proprietary ingredients); Living Product Challenge with Transparent Materials Health, to 95%; Living Product Challenge with Transparent Materials Health, to 100%. | All projects must positively impact the building products market by meeting the following materials selection criteria:<br><br>The project must contain one Declare label product per 200 square meters (sm) of gross building area, or project area, whichever is smaller, up to twenty distinct products from five manufacturers. All other product manufacturers not currently in Declare must, at a minimum, receive a letter requesting they disclose their ingredients and identify any Red List content.<br><br>All projects (except residential) must incorporate one product certified under the Living Product Challenge. | Complying with C6 by using Declare-labeled products and Living Product Challenge products will allow a team to earn points under Criterion 6.2. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 6.4 Healthier Material Selection (M + O)* | Use products that comply with specifications listed in Green Communities to avoid particular chemicals in specific product types. | Project teams may use Declare to find products that comply with these requirements. Core projects must use one Declare labeled product per 200 square meters of gross building area, or project area, whichever is smaller, up to twenty distinct products. | Project teams may use Declare to find products that comply with Green Communities requirements, which will also allow teams to meet the Core Imperative requirements to use products with a Declare label. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 6.5: Environmentally Responsible Material Selection (O)* | Use products that comply with environmental requirements for various product types, including using FSC certified wood or salvaged wood for at least 50% by cost for all structural, framing, sheathing, deckling, subfloor, and finish applications. | 50% of wood products must be FSC, salvaged, or harvested on site either for the purpose of clearing the area for construction or to restore or maintain the continued ecological function of the site. The remainder must be from low risk sources. | Complying with C6 should enable a project team to earn three points under Criterion 6.5. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 6.7: Regional Materials (O)* | Use products that were extracted, processed, and manufactured within 500 miles of the project for a minimum of 90%, based on weight or on cost, of the amount of the product category installed in the project.<br>Building product categories that can qualify for these points include the following (every two compliant<br>products can qualify for 1 point):<br>• Framing materials<br>• Exterior materials(e.g., siding, masonry, roofing)<br>• Flooring materials<br>• Concrete/cement and aggregate material<br>• Drywall/interior sheathing materials<br>Note: Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing components cannot be included in this calculation | 20% or more of the materials construction budget must come from within 500 kilometers of the construction site. | Green Communities has a more prescriptive approach than Core, which allows for more flexibility, but it should not be difficult for a project team to devise a strategy towards local sourcing that meets both requirements. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 6.10: Construction Waste Management (M and O)* | Develop and implement a waste management plan that reduces non-hazardous construction and demolition waste through recycling, salvaging, or diversion strategies; maintain documentation on diversion rate for each selected strategy.<br><br>Projects choose to comply with one of three pathways: Option 1 - divert 75-95% of construction waste; Option 2 - Divert waste from specific materials; Option 3 - limit the construction waste to the landfill to either less than 2.5 or less than 1.5 pounds per square foot of building. | The project must divert 80% of the construction waste material from the landfill and provide dedicated infrastructure for the collection of recyclables and compostable food scraps during occupancy. | Green Communities has a more prescriptive approach than Core, which allows for more flexibility, but it should not be difficult for a project team to devise a strategy towards local sourcing that meets both requirements. Project teams pursuing Option 1 under Green Communities should be able to directly coordinate this approach with C6. |
| *Green Communities Criterion 6.11: Recycling Storage (O)* | For projects in locations with municipal recycling infrastructure and/or recycling haulers, provide separate bins for the collection of trash and recycling for each dwelling unit and all shared community rooms.<br><br>For projects in locations without municipal recycling infrastructure or recycling haulers, advocate to the local waste hauler or municipality for regular collection of recyclables. Commit to providing recycling bins if service becomes available. | The project must divert 80% of the construction waste material from the landfill and provide dedicated infrastructure for the collection of recyclables and compostable food scraps during occupancy. | These two requirements are aligned and a project team would likely be able to easily meet the criteria for both through a single recycling storage strategy. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C7 UNIVERSAL ACCESS | | |
| *Green Communities Criterion 7.1: Beyond ADA: Universal Design (O)* | Implement three Universal Design strategies from at least one of five categories for at least 75% of dwelling units. | All projects must safeguard access for those with physical disabilities through designs meeting the Principles of Universal design (United States Access Board), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines; or an international equivalent. | Green Communities has a more prescriptive approach to Universal Design than Core requirements; however, project teams should easily be able to implement a strategy that meets the requirements of both. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C8 INCLUSION | | |

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| *Green Communities 2.14 Criterion Local Economic Development and Community Wealth Creation (O)* | Comply with one of three options by either 1) demonstrating a local hiring preference for construction employment was a part of the bidding process; 2) demonstrating that the project achieved at least a 20% local employment; or 3) providing physical space in the project for business, non-profits, and/or skill and workforce education. | Include diverse stakeholders from vulnerable or disadvantaged populations in the design, construction, operations and maintenance phases at the following levels:<br><br>20% of design contract and/or construction contracts, and 10% of maintenance contracts must be with JUST organizations that meet required levels for Diversity category, or are registered Minority, Women, or Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWDBE) organizations, or international equivalent.<br>Workforce development/training/community benefits agreements, registered apprentice programs, and similar programs are employed for 10% of the General Contractor's project contracts and/or maintenance contracts.<br>Or<br><br>Donate 0.1% of total project cost to a regional, community-based nonprofit organization focused on equity and inclusion. | The focus of Green Communities Criterion 2.14 is local hiring, whereas the Core Imperative C8: Inclusion is focused on stakeholders from vulnerable or disadvantaged populations. However, depending on the project context, it may be possible to come up with a strategy that prioritizes both in the hiring and economic impacts. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C9 BEAUTY + BIOPHILIA | | |
| *Green Communities Criterion 7.13: Healing-Centered Design (O)* | Implement at least two strategies from at least two different categories of healing-centered design for at least 75% of dwelling units. | Projects must be designed to include elements that nurture the innate human/nature connection. Each project team must engage in a minimum of one all-day Biophilic Design Exploration of the biophilic design potential for the project. The Exploration must result in a Biophilic Framework and Plan for the project that outlines strategy and implementation ideas for the following:<br><br>How the project will be transformed by deliberately incorporating nature through Environmental Features, Light and Space, and Natural Shapes and Forms.<br>How the project will be transformed by deliberately incorporating nature's patterns through Natural Patterns and Processes and Evolved Human-Nature Relationships.<br>How the project will be uniquely connected to the place, climate, and culture through Place-Based Relationships. The project must meaningfully integrate public art and contain design features intended solely for human delight and the celebration of culture, spirit, and place appropriate to the project's function. | Although there are differences in goals between biophilic design and healing-centered design, there is much overlap and project teams can likely implement biophilic design strategies that effectively promote healing and meet the requirements of Green Communities. |
| | CORE IMPERATIVE C10 EDUCATION + INSPIRATION | | |
| *Green Communities Criterion 8.1: Building Operations & Maintenance Manual Plan (M)* | Develop a manual with thorough building O&M guidance and a complementary accountability plan. The manual and plan should be developed over the course of the project design, development, and construction stages so that knowledge can be transferred from this stage of the project life cycle to the operations and asset management stage. | All projects must provide:<br><br>A Living Building Challenge Case Study.<br>An annual open day for the public.<br>A copy of the Operations and Maintenance Manual.<br>All projects (except single-family residential) must:<br><br>Provide a simple brochure describing the design and environmental features of the project.<br>Install interpretive signage that teaches visitors and occupants about the project.<br>Develop and share an educational website about the project.<br>Include one Living Future Accredited Professional on the project team. | Both standards require an O+M manual. Project teams should be able to create one that satisfies the requirements of both standards. |