

LEED for Cities and Communities: A Catalyst for Change in this Decade of Action

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ABSTRACT

All over the world, change makers at the urban scale -- mayors, planners, sustainability directors, designers, developers, investors are coming together to collaborate and catalyze a new generation of high-performance cities.

This session engages practitioners and thought leaders in a discussion about LEED for Cities and Communities' role in catalyzing action on climate, sustainability, resilience and social equity in advance of 2030.

The United Nations set 2030 as the year to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C identifies 2030 as an interim target for GHG emission reductions. All over the world, change makers at the urban scale -- mayors, planners, sustainability directors, designers, developers, investors -- are coming together to collaborate and catalyze a new generation of high-performance cities.

LEED for Cities and Communities delivers a comprehensive framework and certification program to both guide and recognize leadership in urban sustainability. Cities and communities demanded a globally consistent standard to measure performance across social, economic and environmental sustainability. Whether a project is in the planning and design phase or is a fully built out and functioning city or community, LEED for Cities and Communities serves that need.

In this session, we will address how local leaders are scaling up the impact of individual green buildings and spaces to the city and community level. We will share examples of certified projects leading the way on carbon neutrality and the just transition to a greener, cleaner economy. We'll highlight places that are tackling urban heat and public health with trees. We'll share how projects are using results to prioritize investment and transform their cities and communities.

20th Annual New York State Green Building Conference

March 31 to April 28, 2022

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BIOGRAPHY

Hilari brings more than two decades of experience in public administration and nonprofit leadership to her role as VP, LEED for Cities. Currently, she supports local governments engaged in the LEED for Cities certification program. She also liaises to the LEED Cities and Communities Working Group.

Previously Hilari led STAR Communities as its executive/founding director. In that capacity, she deployed the first framework and certification program for local sustainability in the US, the STAR Community Rating System. She has served as a chief sustainability officer and principal planner in local government and has led two nonprofit organizations as CEO.

Hilari is invested in helping cities, towns and counties use data to drive decision-making, investments and community improvements that are more equitable and resilient. Her approach to sustainability is holistic and rooted in the triple bottom line. Her areas of expertise include strategic planning, facilitation, program development and administration, policy development, governance, stakeholder engagement, fundraising, marketing and communications.

She holds a Master's of Arts degree from Northern Arizona University in Geography with an emphasis in Community Planning and a Bachelor's of Science degree from Unity College of Maine in Environmental Policy.

Hilari represents USGBC on the board's of the Emerald Cities Collaborative; Golden Triangle Business Improvement District; and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Climate, Energy Policy Committee. She is a 13-generation Marylander who serves locally on the Frederick County Roads Board and is a Girl Scout troop leader for high school age girls.

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