

## LEED ND FOR LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council in 2007, the pilot program for LEED ND encourages the creation of sustainable constructions and the development of intelligent residential, commercial or mixed-use neighbourhoods. While the LEED certification is designed for buildings, the LEED ND certification is granted on the scale of a community, and not necessarily on the basis of the buildings which are found there.

Although LEED ND certification is currently granted by the U.S. Green Building Council, the Canada Green Building Council is watching the pilot program closely, so as to be able to grant its own certification: LEED Canada ND. The final rating system for LEED ND is set to be released this fall in the two countries. To date, 238 developing communities in six countries have been selected to participate in the LEED ND pilot program, including 24 Canadian residential projects with four in Québec.

### **Characteristics of a LEED ND certified neighbourhood**

For a neighbourhood to be certified as LEED ND, it must be designed with protection of the environment in mind, and an improved quality of daily life for its residents.

LEED ND calls upon a global approach to sustainable development, while recognizing performance in the four important areas of health and the environment:

- **Intelligent location of the project:** evaluation criteria include proximity to bike paths, reduction of distances that must be travelled by personal vehicle, increase in use of public transport, proximity to services and employment, revitalization of former industrial buildings, and long-term water conservation plans.
- **Neighbourhood design:** evaluation criteria include presence of footpaths, schools, recreation areas, the limiting of urban sprawl and the creation of open communities.
- **Infrastructure and green buildings:** evaluation criteria include use of buildings which have been certified green, minimal energy and water consumption in the neighbourhood, and a pollution prevention system during construction.
- **Innovation and design process.**