Certified Green Buildings

What?

A green building is a building that has a sustainable design, structure, and operation. This means that throughout the building's life cycle, from planning to construction, maintenance, and demolition, environmental responsibility is considered. There are two types of certifications for buildings: LEED and BOMA BEST Certifications.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is an internationally accepted sustainability-focused certification program run by the Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC). It covers six areas related to sustainable buildings: location and transportation, site development, water, energy, materials, and indoor environmental quality (e.g. natural light and clean air).

The four levels of LEED certification, from lowest to highest, are:

| Platinum | Gold | Silver | Certified |

McGill has long been integrating LEED standards in its construction and renovation projects. Now, the 2020-2025 Climate and Sustainability Strategy requires all new construction projects to be at least LEED Gold Certified.

The **BOMA BEST Sustainable Building Certification** is the largest Canadian environmental certification program that "recognizes excellence in energy and environmental management and performance." There are five levels that buildings can earn by following the "BEST Practices," from Certified through Platinum.

How?

You can make your event more sustainable by either having it outdoors or in a LEED or BOMA BEST certified building.

Current McGill **LEED certified** green buildings include:

- The Life Sciences Complex (LEED Gold certified)
  - The Bellini Life Sciences Building
  - The Cancer Research Building
  - The McIntyre Medical Sciences Building
  - The Stewart Biological Sciences Building
- The Armstrong Building (LEED Silver Certified)
- The McGill University Health Center- MUHC (LEED Gold Certified)

For off-campus events, look for **LEED certified buildings** (check the venue's website) or search a directory of **BOMA BEST certified buildings** [here](#).