



New York by the Numbers
Economic snapshots of the five boroughs

Center for an
Urban
Future
www.nyuurban.org

April 2009
Volume 2 • Issue 2

The Center for an Urban Future is New York City's home for independent research and analysis free thinking about the issues affecting the five boroughs.

Inside

- LEED-Certified Projects NYC vs Other Major Cities p. 2
- LEED-Certified Projects Manhattan p. 3
- LEED-Certified Projects Brooklyn p. 3
- LEED-Certified Projects Manhattan p. 2
- LEED-Certified Projects Queens p. 3
- LEED-Certified Projects Staten Island p. 3

In this Issue:

A LEEDer in Green Building?
The Number of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified buildings in New York City trails that of many other big U.S. cities.

Since at least the spring of 2007 when PlaNYC – the ambitious 127-point plan for a more sustainable city – was unveiled, Mayor Bloomberg has aggressively tried to position New York as a national leader in environmentally-friendly development. In fact, just last week, the mayor announced a new initiative, drawing on \$1.8 billion in federal stimulus funds, to retrofit the city's older, energy-hogging buildings. But, interestingly, when it comes to the number of completed LEED-certified new buildings in New York, the city is decisively middle-of-the-pack, trailing behind Chicago, Portland, Seattle, Washington, DC, and San Francisco.

LEED certification remains the country's premier standard for top-of-the-line green construction. The U.S. Green Building Council, a DC-based non-profit that administers the certification process, grades buildings on their performance in a number of different areas, including how much energy is consumed, how the water is used or re-used and the kinds of construction materials employed. The greenest buildings earn a "Platinum" rating, the next greatest a "Gold" rating, and the next a "Silver" rating, although still very good in environmental terms, the least green buildings receive a "Certified" designation.

New York City has 41 buildings in all with one of those four LEED ratings, compared to 70 in Chicago, 63 in the comparatively tiny Portland, 55 in Seattle and 47 in Washington, DC. New York may very well fare better when measuring the overall square footage of LEED buildings, since a significant percentage of the certified projects here are tall residential and office towers.

Unsurprisingly, Manhattan has by far the most LEED certified buildings within the five boroughs, with 33; the Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island each have two while Queens has four. Of those, five earned a "Platinum" rating, 14 a "Gold" certification, 14 a "Silver" rating and six as "Certified" designations. The city currently has 455 other projects that have registered for LEED certification, an indication that the city's total may increase significantly in the years ahead. However, many of these developments have yet to break ground and in the present fiscal downturn may never see the light of day.

Borough	Total LEED Certified Projects
Bronx	2
Brooklyn	2
Manhattan	33
Queens	4
Staten Island	2
NYC Total	41

Certification Level	Count
Platinum	5
Gold	14
Silver	14
Certified	8
NYC Total	41

Report - April 2009

A LEEDer in Green Building?

This edition of New York by the Numbers shows that the number of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified buildings in New York City trails that of many other big U.S. cities. When it comes to the number of LEED-certified new buildings in New York, the city is decisively middle-of-the-pack, behind Chicago, Portland, Seattle, Washington, DC and San Francisco.

by Center for an Urban Future

[Click here to read the full report \(PDF\).](#)

RELATED PRESS

[New York Lags Several Cities in Certified Green Buildings—Surprising, Right?](#)

The New York Observer, by Eliot Brown, April 30, 2009

[NYC buildings less green than most](#)

Crain's New York Business, by Amanda Fung, April 29, 2009



CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE
120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

cuf@nycfuture.org © All Rights Reserved.