

<b>Topic:</b>	Green Buildings & Energy Efficiency
<b>Resource Type:</b>	Regulations
<b>State:</b>	Illinois
<b>Jurisdiction Type:</b>	Municipal
<b>Municipality:</b>	County of Cook
<b>Year</b> ( <i>adopted, written, etc.</i> ):	Unknown
<b>Community Type – applicable to:</b>	Urban; Suburban; Rural
<b>Title:</b>	County of Cook Building Construction Ordinance
<b>Document Last Updated in Database:</b>	February 10, 2016

### ***Abstract***

Cook County, Illinois has over 130 incorporated municipalities, the largest of which is the county seat, Chicago, which makes up approximately 54% of the population of the county. The county of 5,294,664 residents is the second most populous in the United States after Los Angeles County, and is home to 43.3% of Illinois residents. Cook is on the coast line of Lake Michigan and has a total area of 1,635 square miles, 946 of which is land and 689 of which is water.

Cook County's Building Construction ordinance requires that all newly constructed City buildings and those scheduled for capital improvements be designed, built, and operated to meet the requirements for certification under the LEED Green Building Rating System, Version 2.0. The ordinance requires that the County refer to the most current version of LEED when beginning a new building construction permit project or renovation and anticipates the US Green Building Council to update LEED approximately every three years. Additionally, all City retrofit projects must meet the requirements for certification for LEED Existing Buildings. All buildings must obtain at least eight points in the LEED Energy and Atmosphere category, and all new construction and major renovation projects must incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features.

### ***Resource***

CODE OF ORDINANCES – COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
PART I: GENERAL ORDINANCES  
Chapter 2 - Administration  
§ 2.6

#### **§ 2-6. Building construction.**

(a) In this section the term "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)" means a green building rating system promulgated by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) that provides specific principles and practices, some mandatory but the majority

discretionary, that may be applied during the design, construction, and operation phases, which enable the building to be awarded points from reaching present standards of environmental efficiency so that it may achieve LEED certification from the USGBC as a "green" building, as such rating system exists on November 7, 2002.

(b) The County does hereby order the Department of Capital Planning and Policy to take the steps necessary to assure that all newly constructed buildings and all buildings scheduled for capital improvement are designed, built, and operated in accordance with the standards and requirements of the LEED Green Building Rating System, Version 2.0, and does further order that each new building must meet the requirements for LEED certification.

(c) The USGBC intends to release a revised version of the LEED Green Building Rating System every three years; and Cook County shall refer to the most current version of the LEED when beginning a new building construction permit project or renovation.

(d) With specific regard to the LEED Energy and Atmosphere category, because achieving increasing levels of energy performance above the set energy code standards is the surest way of realizing significant operational cost savings, all buildings shall set a goal to obtain a total of at least eight points in this category.

(e) The County also orders that LEED Existing Building rating system be used during retrofit projects of its current standing structures and does further order that each retrofitted building shall meet the requirements for LEED certification for existing buildings.

(f) New construction and major renovation projects shall incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features, including, but not limited to, those recommended by the City of Chicago's "Bird-Safe Building Design Guide for New Construction and Renovation," the City of Toronto's "Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines," and New York City Audubon's "Bird-Safe Building Guidelines."

(g) The County shall make existing buildings bird-safe where practicable.