

LEED Certification of Buildings

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The issue of sustainability is a sensitive one that has to be balanced within the socio-economic constraints of a given society. This presentation looks at the context of LEED and its application to our region. The presentation will establish the premise of our current energy environment within our specific social context. It will discuss the history and development of LEED at a superficial level and attempt to walk through the LEED certification process, referencing the LEED for New Construction Rating System in particular.

Given that LEED has evolved in a developed economy the presentation will focus on some of the challenges that one can expect to face as a LEED practitioner within the region. It will introduce some of the social and economic costs associated with the LEED process and, finally, propose the localization and adaptation of green building rating towards the eventual implementation of a region-sensitive approach towards green design, construction and operation.

BIO



Mandilee Newton is a Registered Architect with 10 years' experience in the industry throughout Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad. She is an Associate at acla:works architecture and interiors.

With a primary focus on sustainability, Newton is a LEED® Green Associate and an advocate for green design and sustainability within the Caribbean. Newton has authored various papers on sustainability, including "Sustainability in the Caribbean Context" and "LEED – A Caribbean Architect's Perspective".

Newton also participates in various conferences on sustainability, most recently a speaker at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce's – 3rd Annual Caribbean Facilities Management and Maintenance Conference held in July 2011.

Newton was instrumental in the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Green Building Council, launched in September 2011 and is currently VP of Research and Development.

An active member in the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects, Newton's focus is on architecture and its ability to transform the environment through sustainable means.