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## Green group shows building owners the way to sustainability, profitability

By [Daniel Reid](#)

Building owners and managers can learn how to green certify their buildings with a top environmental group tomorrow.

On March 25, the Ottawa region of the [Canada Green Building Council](#) is offering an information session on retrofitting already existing buildings for a new national pilot project that will help owners cut back on energy and water use.

[LEED \(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design\) for Existing Buildings](#) is expected to be introduced this spring.

"It's a little bit different than most LEED programs," said Erika Mayer, treasurer of the CaGBC, who will be speaking at the event.

Where some LEED certification programs only look at the design and construction of a building, this new program promises to go much further.

"It's based on actual energy and water data (once the building is operating)," she said.

But why would an owner be interested in LEED certification after their building is already in use?

"Marketability," said Mayer. "It's a way to demonstrate to the public, as a building owner, that your building is being owned and operated in a sustainable manner."

Green buildings are also efficient buildings, said Mayer, who is also president of [Lunchbox Consulting](#), a green building professional services firm.

The LEED rating system helps owners and operators measure their building's performance and learn to reduce their operating costs.

"You can't manage what you don't measure," said Mayer.

### LEED FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

The one-day information session takes place at the Whalesbone Oyster House, 430 Bank Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and costs \$25 for non-members and \$15 for members of the green building council. To RVSP, contact [ottawachapter@cagbc.org](mailto:ottawachapter@cagbc.org).

"It's going to be a good overview session and a sneak peak at what's coming," said Mayer.

For more information, visit [ottawachapter.cagbc.org](http://ottawachapter.cagbc.org).

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