



# NEWS



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## **Santa Monica Offers Incentives for Building Green** Faster permits and financial incentives intended to build demand for green buildings in Santa Monica

When the City of Santa Monica asked residents if they believed buildings should be healthier and more efficient, 93% of them said “yes.” When the city asked developers what it could do to help encourage them to build these green buildings, they asked for expedited plan checks or financial incentives. Now, the City of Santa Monica is offering both expedited plan checks and financial incentives for buildings registered for certification under the LEED® Green Building Rating System™, a nationally recognized certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Effective immediately, any project that registers for LEED® certification and provides proper documentation will be given first priority for plan checks in Santa Monica. Priority plan check has the potential to shave weeks from the approval process. Buildings eligible for expedited permits are also eligible for grants of \$20,000 to \$35,000 (depending on the level of LEED® certification). The city hopes the combined incentives along with the demonstrated demand for green buildings in Santa Monica will result in increased green building activity in the private sector. “While there have been a number of green buildings built in the city,” said Green Building Advisor Greg Reitz, “we have seen little activity in the for-profit development community. We expect that to change as we make it easier for developers to make the commitment.”

Check the City of Santa Monica’s [Green Building Program](#) website or go to or call (310) 458-8549. For additional information check the [US Green Building Council](#) or LEED® website.

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