OVERVIEW

Living Future Accreditation (LFA) is the professional credential that recognizes proficiency in the world’s most ambitious, advanced, and holistic sustainable design standards.

A complete guide to Living Future Accreditation from start to finish

WHO SHOULD PURSUE LFA?

Practitioners who unite philosophy and action
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Real estate development
- Community and campus planning
- Manufacturing
- Product design
- Product sales
- Interior design
- Construction
- Landscape design
- Ecology & environmental science

Change makers in deep green building, manufacturing, and design as well as community and corporate social justice and equity
- Government and policy leaders
- Sustainability leaders
- Team and community leaders
- Philanthropists

Educators of regenerative architecture and related fields in sustainability and resiliency

Emerging professionals and students seeking credentials to advance their careers
LFA
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

BENEFITS OF EARNING LIVING FUTURE ACCREDITATION

Depth and diversification of advanced sustainable design knowledge
• Familiarity with ILFI’s certification programs, labels, and initiatives
• Understanding of leading edge regenerative design philosophy
• Flexibility to specialize in topic area(s) of interest

Workplace recognition
• Personal use of post-nominal initials (LFA) and official LFA seal
• Distinguish as a leader in your industry

Project and career opportunities for impact
• Eligibility to fulfill the LFA project team member requirement on LBC 4.0 projects (per Imperative 20 ‘Inspiration & Education’)
• Preparation and confidence for working on projects pursuing Living Future Challenge certifications and labels
• Growth in your capacity to work on and advocate for advanced sustainable design projects

Global community of LFA peers
• Belonging to an international and diverse community of practice that shares a common vision for a living future
• Connection with fellow LFA professionals and Living Future Members through opportunities provided by ILFI

THE ILFI LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

Create a Living Future for all — catalyze change through a sequence of leadership opportunities

BECOME A LIVING FUTURE MEMBER.
Membership provides opportunities to make valuable connections, broaden your industry knowledge, and take meaningful action in pursuit of a living future.

LIVING FUTURE ACCREDITATION (LFA).
LFA is the professional credential that recognizes proficiency in the world’s most ambitious, advanced, and holistic sustainable design standards.

STEP 1: Enroll in the LFA Foundational Curriculum.

STEP 2: Achieve LFA by completing education requirements within one year. Group discounts and a Fast Track option are available!

STEP 3: Renew your LFA and recommit to a living future every two years.

BECOME A LIVING FUTURE AMBASSADOR.
Represent ILFI and our programs in your community, to clients, owners, manufacturers, and policy makers. Ambassadors receive exclusive training and presentation resources, as well as connection with the global Living Future Network.

Apply now

Begin enrollment

Become a member
LFA REQUIREMENTS

**LFA Eligibility Prerequisite: Active Living Future Membership**
Pursuing, achieving, and maintaining your LFA requires maintaining an active Living Future Membership. Your membership will provide opportunities to make valuable connections, broaden your industry knowledge, and take meaningful action in pursuit of a living future.

To discover the assortment of membership benefits, and to join or renew, please visit the Membership page.

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**STEP 1: ENROLL IN THE LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM**

Enrolling in the LFA Foundational Curriculum is the first step to starting your LFA journey. You’ll have one year to complete the collection of online courses in the LFA Foundational Curriculum and fulfill the other education requirements.

The Foundational courses give you a working knowledge of ILFI certification programs, labels, and initiatives along with an orientation advanced sustainability topics. Complete the on-demand courses online at your own pace, whenever you want, wherever you are!

**EARN 16 GENERAL LFA CE CREDITS**

General education allows you to specialize in the topic areas of your choosing. This education may be earned from a variety of sources:

- **Living Future Education**
  - Any courses not contained in the LFA Foundational Curriculum

- **Additional ILFI General CE credit opportunities**
  - Reading Ecotone books published by ILFI
  - Participating in ILFI conferences and events
    - Living Future unConference, our annual flagship event
    - Multi-session events such as the Zero Carbon Conference, Living Product Expo, Net Positive Symposium, and Building Resilience
    - ILFI workshops, summits, and other events
  - Delivering an ILFI presentation as an Ambassador

- **Non-ILFI education sources, live delivery**
- Living Future project team work experience
  - Hands-on experience working on registered or certified LPC, LBC, or LCC projects or JUST Declare, or Reveal labels
  - Regenerative design research
  - Other external education may be submitted and will be reviewed at time of audit

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**STEP 2: ACHIEVE LFA WITHIN ONE YEAR OF ENROLLMENT**

LFA achievement requires the completion of 36 LFA Continuing Education (CE) credits within a one year period. Credits earned up to two years prior to your enrollment date may be reported towards this requirement.

Of the required 36 LFA CE credits, 20 must be Foundational and 16 must be General.

**EARN 20 FOUNDATIONAL LFA CE CREDITS**

The LFA Foundational Curriculum contains all 20 required Foundational LFA CE credits. It includes a set list of courses offering comprehensive education on ILFI’s Living Future Challenges, initiatives, and transparency labels.

This education is bundled as the LFA Foundational Curriculum to provide a streamlined experience for proceeding through the coursework. The course list may be periodically updated.
REPORT LFA CE CREDITS AND TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS LFA

LFA CE credits earned via Living Future Education online courses will be automatically recorded; there is no need to report these credits individually.

Credits earned from other education (whether provided by ILFI or not) must be reported through Living Future Education to appear on your transcript. Active holders of another green building credential (see ‘Fast Track’ option) must submit proof through Living Future Education.

Within Living Future Education, view your transcript to see the total credits recorded and reported towards your LFA. At any time, you may also choose to opt in for automatic, regularly-scheduled progress update emails.

QUALIFY FOR FINAL AUDIT AND ACHIEVE LFA

The LFA candidate must confirm completion of all requirements.

Full completion automatically triggers an audit by ILFI. Upon successful review, ILFI will provide a certificate of LFA achievement and the official LFA seal for personal use.

STEP 3: RENEW YOUR LFA AND COMMIT TO A LIVING FUTURE EVERY TWO YEARS.

All renewal requirements must be met every two years in order to maintain an active LFA.

• Recommit to your credential and community of practice by completing the LFA renewal form.
• Make sure that your Living Future Membership remains active
• Earn and report 16 LFA CE credits. These credits could be earned from both Foundational and General credit sources. At least 8 credits must be earned from Living Future Education.

FULL COMPLETION OF THESE REQUIREMENTS AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGERS AN AUDIT BY ILFI. UPON SUCCESSFUL REVIEW, ILFI WILL PROVIDE AN UPDATED CERTIFICATE OF LFA ACHIEVEMENT AND THE OFFICIAL LFA SEAL FOR PERSONAL USE.

Keep learning and earning credits to maintain your credential, hone your expertise, and stay sharp with the latest developments in the regenerative design field.
COST

Depending on your individual preferences and prior education, costs to achieve LFA will vary. The chart below illustrates a framework for estimating your personal investment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIVING FUTURE MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>See here for details &amp; group discounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM</td>
<td>$615 USD (a $815 USD value, discounted by 25% for aspiring LFA professionals!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL LFA CE CREDITS</td>
<td>Costs vary - Flexible options for the most effective way of accomplishing this education requirement based on your budget and goals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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LFA allows for a wide range of education options towards completing General credits, and thus there is a wide range of associated costs.
LFA FAST TRACK OPTION

Building upon prior achievement of another green building credential enables you to “fast track” your way to LFA.

Save time and money by applying another green building credential you actively hold towards the 16 General credits required to achieve the LFA credential.

See below for a list of common green building credentials that would qualify, and feel free to inquire about eligibility of another credential if it does not appear on this list.

- AIA Fellow
- BREEAM
- FITWEL
- ISSP
- LA CES
- LEED
- PHI / PHIUS
- SITES
- WELL

In order to achieve LFA on the fast track, simply enroll in the LFA Foundational Curriculum and complete only those 20 LFA CE credits of education. Then, report completion of your General credits through Living Future Education by submitting proof of the other green building credential you currently hold. An active green building credential counts towards the requirements for first-time LFA achievement, but does not count towards LFA renewal requirements.
LFA
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

GROUP LFA OPTION

In groups of 5 or more, the enrollment price for the LFA Foundational Curriculum is reduced by one third! Each learner who joins the LFA group becomes eligible to apply their Living Future Member discount (10%) to the LFA Foundational Curriculum for a total 35% discount on the course package. The member discount may not otherwise be applied to this course package.

Who should pursue group LFA? Teams looking to scale their impact and differentiate their organization.

Listed below are some of the many organizations who have already pursued LFA together:
- GGLO
- Group14 Engineering
- Integral Group
- LATITUDE
  
  Regenerative Real Estate
- Overland Partners
- Architects
- Red Studio Inc Architects
- Steinberg Hart Architects

Benefits of pursuing Group LFA
- Reduce the overall cost of accreditation
- Grow your organization’s capacity to work on and advocate for advanced sustainable design projects
- Confidently respond to projects pursuing Living Future Challenge certifications and labels
- Have a breadth AND depth of regenerative design knowledge on staff

How to achieve LFA with a group
1. Identify at least 5 learners to establish the group.
2. Identify a group organizer to coordinate directly with ILFI. (The group organizer is not required to be a learner within the group.)
3. Submit a request to establish the group with ILFI.
4. Follow the instructions for group enrollment from ILFI, along with resources for completing LFA education together.
5. Each learner in the group achieves LFA as an individual.

Once all learners have achieved LFA, we encourage group organizers to provide a knowledge-sharing opportunity. Groups have benefited from collectively identifying which education areas each individual has focused their expertise in developing, and overall which topics are contained within the group’s wealth of understanding.

Cost

**LIVING FUTURE MEMBERSHIP**
See here for details & group discounts

**LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM**
$553.50 per learner (min. 5)
(Additional 10% member discount for a total 35% off the course package)

**GENERAL LFA CE CREDITS**
Costs vary - Flexible options for the most effective way of accomplishing this education requirement based on your budget, goals, and whether learners in your group hold other green building credentials.
TOP 5 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW TO EARN GENERAL LFA CE CREDITS?
Check out the options listed under the ‘Earn 16 General LFA CE Credits’ section above. In addition to Living Future Education online courses, ILFI provides several other types of education opportunities and accepts select live (online/in-person) education sources delivered by other providers.

Example 1: Complete a variety of Living Future Education courses based on your own interests and goals
- Earn 16 General LFA CE credits via participation
  - Living Future Members save 10% on all enrollments!

Example 2: Attend the Living Future Conference
- Earn 16 General LFA CE credits via live sessions and replays
  - Fulfill the requirement once credits are self-reported
- Also earn 4 Foundational LFA CE credits via live workshops
  - May apply a 4-credit fee waiver towards enrollment in the LFA Foundational Curriculum
  - May skip any Foundational on-demand courses that correspond to content covered in workshops attended (details in question below)

Example 3: Work on a JUST Label as a member of the project team
- Earn 16 General LFA CE credits with two years of work on the label
  - Fulfill the requirement once credits are self-reported

Example 4: Deliver presentations about ILFI as an Ambassador
- Earn 16 General LFA CE credits with two years of required presentation deliveries
  - Fulfill the requirement once credits are self-reported

2. ARE THERE ANY SUBSTITUTIONS FOR LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM COURSES?
The LFA Foundational Curriculum includes a set list of courses offering deep dives into the Living Future Challenges (Products, Buildings, and Communities) and introductions to all of our transparency labels and initiatives. All courses are available on-demand in Living Future Education and, periodically, delivered live (online/in-person).

For a complete list of all currently approved substitutions (live deliveries in lieu of on-demand courses), please see here.

If you have already completed any of the education contained in the LFA Foundational Curriculum, whether via an on-demand course or a live delivery, ILFI offers a proportionate partial fee waiver towards enrollment in the LFA Foundational Curriculum. Check your event registration confirmation for your coupon code, or contact us to obtain one.

3. WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIVING FUTURE MEMBER DASHBOARD AND THE LIVING FUTURE EDUCATION ONLINE LEARNING DASHBOARD?
The Living Future Member Dashboard contains member-only resources such as the directory and discussion groups, as well as tools for project and product registration and resources for Ambassadors. The Membership Team can help you gain access to your Member Dashboard and answer questions regarding your membership.

To discover the assortment of membership benefits, and to join or renew, please visit the Membership page.

The Living Future Education dashboard is where you’ll find your online courses. Living Future Education is available for members and non-members, and no account is required to browse the course catalog. The Education Team can help you gain access to your courses and answer questions...
regarding online learning — please check the rest of these FAQs first though!

Have you previously enrolled in a Living Future Education online course? If not, you’ll have the opportunity to ‘Sign Up’ and create an online learning account when you enroll in your first course. From then on, you can use those account details to log in to view your enrolled courses or enroll in more.

4. HOW CAN I TRACK MY PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING LFA?
Within Living Future Education, view your transcript to see the total credits recorded and reported towards your LFA. At any time, you may also choose to opt in for automatic, regularly-scheduled progress update emails.

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5. WHAT DO I DO AFTER ACHIEVING LFA?
• Add ‘LFA’ to your business cards, email signature, LinkedIn profile, and more
• Share your accomplishment with your social networks
• Apply to become an Ambassador
• Start introducing your colleagues and clients to the Living Future programs

Need more help?
Good news! 90% of the questions we receive are answered in our LFA FAQs

Still unsure?
We’re here to help.
Contact us at lfa@living-future.org