WHAT IS LFA?

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

WHO SHOULD PURSUE LFA?

Practitioners and advocates of regenerative design
- 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
BENEFITS OF LFA

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
• Distinguishment 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 and Core Green Building projects
• 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.

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

Group discounts and a Fast Track option are available!

BECOME A LIVING FUTURE AMBASSADOR.
Ambassadors are LFA professionals who have signed a volunteer agreement with ILFI to lead the Living Future Network, and represent ILFI’s programs around the world. Ambassadors gain access to exclusive resources, slides, and updates, with dedicated staff to help make a Living Future part of your business.
LFA REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility prerequisite: 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.

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.

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.

The Foundational Curriculum provides a learning pathway to achieve a working knowledge of ILFI certification programs, labels, and initiatives along with an orientation to advanced sustainability topics. The course list may be periodically updated. Complete the on-demand courses online at your own pace, whenever you want, wherever you are!

Preview the Foundational courses

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, including but not limited to:

- Any Living Future Education online courses not contained in the LFA Foundational Curriculum
- Reading Ecotone books published by ILFI and participating in the online Ecotone Book Club
- Participating in the annual Living Future Conference
- Delivering an ILFI presentation as a Living Future Ambassador
- Living Future project team work experience, including serving as a designated LFA professional on LBC, LCC, or LPC projects or Declare, Just, or Reveal labels
- Completing education delivered by ILFI or other providers, if pre-approved for LFA CE credit
- Other relevant education may be submitted and will be reviewed at time of final audit

Those who already hold an active green building credential, such as LEED AP, may be eligible to Fast Track their completion of the 16 General CE credits requirement.
LFA
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

SELF-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 sources (whether ILFI or not) must be self-reported through Living Future Education to appear on your transcript.

Once logged in, 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.

Are you ready to self-report General LFA CE credits or access the Fast Track? Log in to education.living-future.org and record the details on your transcript.

Self-report credits

QUALIFY FOR FINAL AUDIT AND ACHIEVE LFA

The LFA candidate must complete all requirements, as indicated by their Living Future Education transcript, to qualify for a final audit.

Full completion automatically triggers an audit by ILFI. Upon successful review, ILFI will provide a certificate of LFA achievement and other resources.

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

Note: LFA professionals must maintain an active Living Future Membership (renewable annually) to maintain their active LFA status. A lapse in membership will result in a lapsed LFA until the membership is renewed.

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

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

• Complete the LFA renewal form.
• Earn and report 16 LFA CE credits, at least 8 of which must be earned from ILFI education sources.

LFA ACHIEVEMENT CHECKLIST

☐ Active Living Future Membership
☐ 36 total LFA CE credits

INCLUDING:

☐ 20 Foundational credits
☐ 16 General credits
☐ Completed within a year of enrollment
☐ Recorded and reported in Living Future Education transcript

Full completion of these requirements automatically triggers an audit by ILFI. Upon successful review, ILFI will provide an updated certificate of LFA achievement and other resources.
LFA
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

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.

LIVING FUTURE MEMBERSHIP
See [here](#) for details & group discounts

LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM
$615 USD ($815 USD value, discounted by 25% for aspiring LFA professionals!)

GENERAL LFA CE CREDITS
Costs vary - Flexible options for the most effective way of accomplishing this education requirement based on your budget and goals

A discount on LFA Foundational Curriculum enrollment is available for groups of 5 or more learners. Details available [here](#).

Aspiring LFA professionals who also maintain another active green building credential may choose the Fast Track option, in order to fulfill the General credits requirement at no additional cost. Details available [here](#).
LFA FAST TRACK OPTION

Already a LEED AP, or hold another green building credential? Get on the LFA Fast Track.

You’re not starting from square one, so let’s build on your existing knowledge to go further, faster! Save time and money by applying another active credential towards your LFA, to fulfill the requirement of 16 General credits.

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. Eligibility is determined by whether the credential requires a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education within two years.

- BREEAM
- CPHC (PHI/PHIUS)
- EcoDistricts
- Green Star (Int’l GBC)
- LA CES
- LEED
- WELL

An active green building credential counts towards the requirements for first-time LFA achievement, but does not count towards LFA renewal requirements.

Are you ready to Fast Track your LFA? Any time after enrollment, log in to education.living-future.org and upload evidence of your active credential to your transcript.

Log in + submit other credential
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.

Groups can be composed of colleagues at the same organization, or across multiple organizations (such as various members of an LBC project team). Other groups of learners may also be eligible; inquiries are welcomed.

Listed below are some of the many organizations who have already pursued LFA together:

- Arup
- Calico Studio
- DLR Group
- GGLO
- Grimshaw Architects
- Group 14 Engineering
- HDR, Inc.
- Integral Group
- LATITUDE | Regenerative Real Estate
- M Moser Architects
- Overland Partners Architects
- Red Studio Inc Architects
- Steinberg Hart Architects
- Turner Construction Company

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 and lead projects pursuing Living Future Challenge certifications and labels
- Have a breadth AND depth of regenerative design knowledge on the team

After LFA achievement, we encourage learners to share key takeaways and identify areas of expertise within the group.

HOW TO ACHIEVE LFA WITH A GROUP

1. Identify at least 5 learners to establish the group, and a group organizer to coordinate directly with ILFI. (The organizer is not required to be a learner within the group.)
2. Email LFA@living-future.org to establish the group, receive the discount, and get enrollment guidance.
3. All learners must enroll within 30 days of receiving the discount.
4. Each learner in the group achieves LFA as an individual.

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 maintain 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 (see below for a few examples). ILFI also accepts select pre-approved education delivered by other providers for General LFA CE credits.

Example 1: Complete a variety of Living Future Education online courses based on your own interests and goals, at your own pace
• Living Future Members save 10% on all enrollments! Browse all General credit courses here. (Credits will be automatically recorded on your transcript upon course completion.)

Example 2: Participate in the Living Future Conference and connect with thought leaders around the world
• Attend the live sessions and/or watch the replays. Then, complete the self-reporting activities to record the credits in your Living Future Education account here.

Example 3: Read Ecotone books to explore beautiful case studies and technical guidance
• Living Future Members receive 10% off all titles, as well as additional special offers! Read the book(s) of your choice. Then, complete the self-reporting activities to record the credits in your Living Future Education account here.

Example 4: Work on a Just Label, a Living Building, etc. as a member of the project team
• Contribute to the publication of a label, or the design/construction/manufacturing of a project. Then, complete the self-reporting activities to record the credits in your Living Future Education account here.

You’re welcome to mix and match your education sources to reach the total 16 General LFA CE credits—read an Ecotone book, complete a couple of our online courses, and attend our next conference for a diversity of learning formats!

2. CAN LFA CE CREDITS EARNED BEFORE ENROLLMENT CONTRIBUTE TO MY LFA?
LFA CE credits earned up to a year prior to your enrollment may be applied towards your LFA.

Have you already enrolled in an individual Foundational course à la carte? Reach out to us and we’ll provide a code to prorate your enrollment in the Foundational Curriculum (so you are exempt from paying for and completing that same course again, within the curriculum).

Have you already completed any General LFA CE credits, e.g. by attending our annual Living Future Conference? These credits can be applied to your LFA and will simply need to be self-reported in your Living Future Education account after you’ve enrolled in LFA.

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 and 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.

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.

5. WHAT DO I DO AFTER ACHIEVING LFA?
As an LFA professional, take action to make an impact with your knowledge and expertise by bringing forth advanced solutions for reinventing our relationship with the natural world, the built environment, and each other.

• Celebrate! Share your accomplishment with your colleagues and across your networks
• Boost your profile
  • Add ‘LFA’ to your business cards, email signature, LinkedIn profile, and more
  • Confirm your listing in the LFA Directory
  • Tell us why LFA is important to you so that we can share your story with the Living Future community
  • Introduce yourself and start networking in the Living Future Member forums
• Take action towards a Living Future for all
  • Apply to become a Living Future Ambassador
  • Start introducing your colleagues and clients to the Living Future certification programs and labels
  • Register a project in one of the Living Future certification programs or labels
  • Serve as a designated LFA professional on a Living Future project pursuing certification
• Apply to speak at the next Living Future Conference

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

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