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

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

Educators of regenerative architecture and related fields in sustainability and resiliency

Emerging professionals and students seeking credentials to advance their careers

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LFA
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

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.

TAKEN ACTION WITH YOUR LFA.
Advocate for transformational change to make an impact. Apply your knowledge by working on a project team pursuing a Living Future Challenge or label, speaking at our annual Living Future Conference, volunteering with our Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs), incorporating Living Future philosophy into your teaching, and more.

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

Become a member

Begin enrollment

Apply now
LFA REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility prerequisite: Living Future Membership

Pursuing, achieving, and maintaining your LFA requires an active Living Future Membership, which will enhance your LFA experience by providing 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.

Begin enrollment

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 one year 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 and is provided as one curriculum to streamline the experience for proceeding through the coursework.

The Foundational courses give you a working knowledge of ILFI certification programs, labels, and initiatives along with an orientation to advanced sustainability topics and are updated periodically according to learner feedback and a continuous improvement process to identify the best course offerings for the credential. 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
- Volunteering with our Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)
- 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 LFA CE credits requirement.
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.

QUALIFY FOR FINAL AUDIT AND ACHIEVE LFA

After you have become a member and finished your education, you’ll conduct a self-audit to confirm your completion of all LFA achievement requirements.

Full completion of your self-audit automatically adds your LFA to the queue for ILFI verification. Upon successful review, ILFI will provide resources for celebrating your achievement and connecting with our community. You will also be automatically enrolled towards your LFA renewal.

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

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

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
☐ Final self-audit

LFA renewal requirements must be met every two years:
• Active Living Future Membership*
• 16 General LFA CE credits
  • At least 8 of which are from ILFI education sources
  • Completed within two years of prior LFA achievement
  • Recorded and reported in Living Future Education transcript
• Final self-audit + renewal fee ($125 USD)

Full completion of your self-audit automatically adds your LFA to the queue for ILFI verification. Upon successful review, ILFI will provide resources for celebration, community engagement, and your next renewal.

*Living Future Membership is renewable annually. A lapse in membership will result in a lapsed LFA until the membership is renewed.
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.

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<td>LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM</td>
<td>$615 USD ($898 USD value, discounted by 30% for aspiring LFA professionals!)</td>
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<td>Costs vary - Flexible options for the most effective way of accomplishing this education requirement based on your budget and goals</td>
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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 (excluding Legacy)
- 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 other active credential to your transcript.

Log in + submit other credential
LFA
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GROUP LFA OPTION
For learners in groups of 5 or more, we offer packages that include a discount on both LFA Foundational Curriculum enrollments and individual memberships! The packages also include other benefits like Ecotone books of your choice (which offer General LFA CE credits), public recognition on our website, and more. We would be happy to customize a package to suit your needs—for example, LFA enrollments and Living Future Conference passes may be swapped interchangeably.

Explore group packages

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

- Arup
- Calico Studio
- DLR Group
- GGLO
- Grimshaw Architects
- Group14 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

Group LFA grows your team’s recognition as leaders in regenerative design and prepares them to take bold action towards a Living Future.

HOW TO ACHIEVE LFA WITH A GROUP
1. Determine your group size and review our packages.
2. Email LFA@living-future.org to establish the group, discuss package customization, and pay via invoice.
3. Receive access to your package benefits. All learners must enroll in LFA within 30 days of receipt.
4. Each learner in the group achieves LFA as an individual.

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

LIVING FUTURE MEMBERSHIP
See here for details & group discounts

LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM
$500 per learner (min. 5)
(Additional 20% group discount, for a total of 45% off the Foundational courses!)

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. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO ACHIEVE LFA, AND IS THERE A FINAL EXAM?
Relax, there’s no final exam to study for! Competencies are assessed with course-level knowledge checks and quizzes throughout the Foundational Curriculum, and you can take as many attempts as needed to pass each one.

This method takes the pressure off, and it allows you to identify what material you found challenging so you can truly focus on deepening your understanding. After you have completed your LFA education and requirements, you will conduct a self-audit of your progress and submit your LFA to ILFI for final verification.

We offer a full year to progress from LFA enrollment to achievement, so you are welcome to pace your LFA journey according to your own timeline. About 60% of our learners complete their LFA in under 3 months. Some learners choose to utilize the full year to segment their focus (e.g. by completing one course per week, or one topic per month).

• We recommend you estimate that the Foundational Curriculum courses will take you 25-35 hours to complete. This estimate varies based on your familiarity with the topics and how much time you spend exploring the websites and reading the resources provided. This estimate also builds in, per credit, approximately an hour of lesson content plus an additional 10-30 minutes of exploratory learning time and 10 minutes per quiz.
• Additionally, you can budget around 16 hours to complete the 16 General LFA CE credits. For non-ILFI education sources, we consider 1 contact hour of education as equivalent to 1 LFA CE credit. Or, with the LFA Fast Track option, fulfilling this requirement could take only a couple of minutes! (You’ll simply need to upload your active other green building credential certificate to your Living Future Education transcript.)

2. 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.
LFA
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

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!

3. 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.

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 CAN 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 and boost your profile!
  - Share your accomplishment with your colleagues and across your networks
  - Add ‘, LFA’ to your email signature, LinkedIn page, etc.
  - Introduce yourself and start making connections in the Living Future Member forums
- Take action towards a Living Future for all
  - Volunteer with our Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)
  - Start introducing your colleagues and clients to the Living Future certification programs and labels
  - Work 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

International Living Future Institute
www.education.living-future.org