Living Building Challenge®

& the WELL Building Standard™

Approaches for projects
seeking a dual rating

INTERNATIONAL **LIVING FUTURE** INSTITUTE℠

INTERNATIONAL **WELL** BUILDING INSTITUTE™

Document Information

Contact for Enquiries

If you have any questions regarding this document, please send inquiries to:

From ILFI	From IWBI
LBC.support@living-future.org	technical@wellcertified.com

Printing

Document is stored and controlled in electronic format. Uncontrolled if printed.

Record of Changes

Version	Date	Author	Nature of Amendment

Contributors

From IWBI	
Jaclyn Whitaker	Senior Vice President, Technical Solutions
Shalini Ramesh	Director, Technical Solutions
Nathan Stodola	Senior Vice President, Standard Development

From ILFI	
Kathleen Smith	Vice President, Living Building Challenge
Allison Capen	Technical Director, Living Building Challenge

Use of Trademarks

All trademarks referenced in this document are the property of International WELL Building Institute pbc, International Living Future Institute or their respective owners. All third-party trademarks referenced in this document are used in an editorial fashion and not to the detriment of the trademark holders.

Copyright

Disclaimer

Partnering to deliver healthy and restorative buildings

The International Living Future Institute (ILFI) and the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), have agreed to work collaboratively to promote the design, construction and operations of healthy and restorative buildings. The two organizations will work together to identify opportunities to align the two rating systems, coordinate events and education offerings, and promote building practices that significantly raise the standard of what buildings should be.

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE™

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE™

About the Living Building Challenge®

The Living Building Challenge is the built environment's most ambitious holistic performance standard. The program was launched in 2006 and is administered by the International Living Future Institute, a non-profit organization offering green building and infrastructure solutions at every scale—from small renovations to whole cities. The mission of the Institute is to lead and support the transformation toward communities that are socially just, culturally rich and ecologically restorative.

The Living Building Challenge is a green building certification program and sustainable design framework that has re-framed the conversation to visualize the ideal for the built environment. It uses the metaphor of a flower because the ideal built environment should function as cleanly and efficiently as a flower. The framework is structured around seven Petals: Place, Water, Energy, Health + Happiness, Materials, Equity, and Beauty.

Certification is based on actual performance, rather than modeled or anticipated outcomes. Therefore, projects must be operational for at least twelve consecutive months prior to evaluation.

Projects earn Living Certification by achieving all Imperatives assigned to a Typology (either Building, Renovation, or Landscape + Infrastructure), and Petal Certification by satisfying the requirements of at least three Petals (at least one of which must be either Water, Energy or Materials). Zero Energy Certification requires projects use on-site renewables to meet 100 percent of their energy needs.

Learn about our other initiatives and programs on our website: living-future.org

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE™

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE™
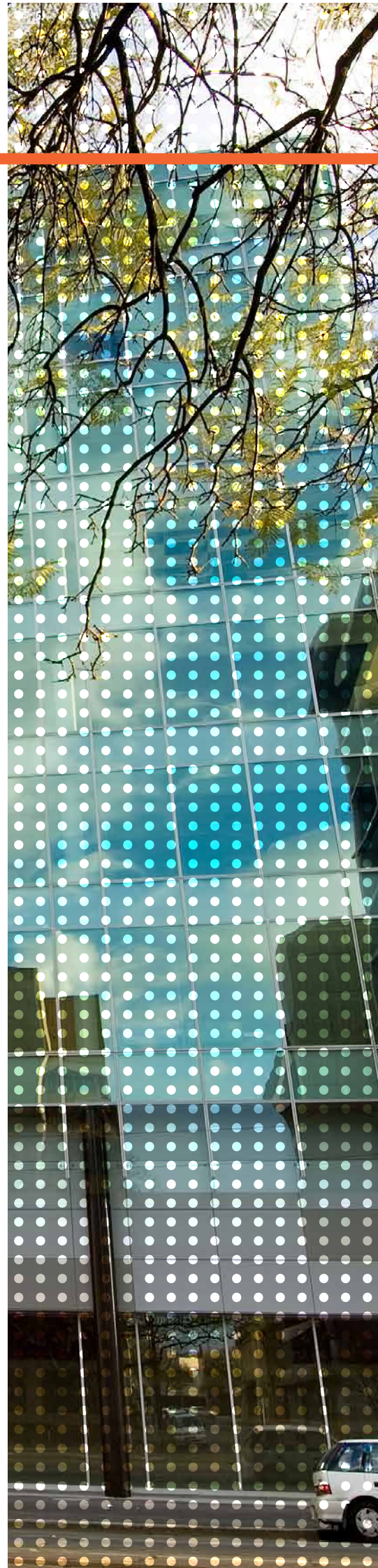
About the WELL Building Standard ™

The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) is the first building standard to focus exclusively on the health and wellness of the people in buildings. WELL is a performance-based system for measuring and certifying features of buildings that impact human health and well-being through seven concepts: air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind. It marries best practices in design and construction with evidence-based medical and scientific research – harnessing buildings and communities as vehicles to support human health and well-being.

Since we spend about 90% of our time indoors, the buildings where we live, work, learn and relax have a profound effect on our well-being: how we feel, what we eat, and how we sleep at night. WELL is grounded in a body of research that explores this connection between buildings and people. Each WELL feature is designed to address issues that impact the health, comfort or knowledge of people in buildings through design, operations and behavior.

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE™

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE™

Purpose of this document

IWBI and ILFI recognize the complementary nature of addressing holistic environmental and social impacts within the built-environment while specifically addressing health and well-being at the organizational and occupant level. Both organizations understand the value of multiple certifications for projects addressing broad sustainability issues and strive to support those efforts.

This document provides assistance for those project teams seeking to obtain both a Living Building Challenge certification and a WELL Certified™. Unless noted otherwise, this document refers to the Living Building Challenge 3.1 and WELL Building Standard v1.

To simplify the process for projects pursuing both programs, ILFI and IWBI have developed the following document to show how Living Building Challenge can assist in meeting WELL features, and to show how WELL features can assist in meeting the Living Building Challenge.

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE™

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE™
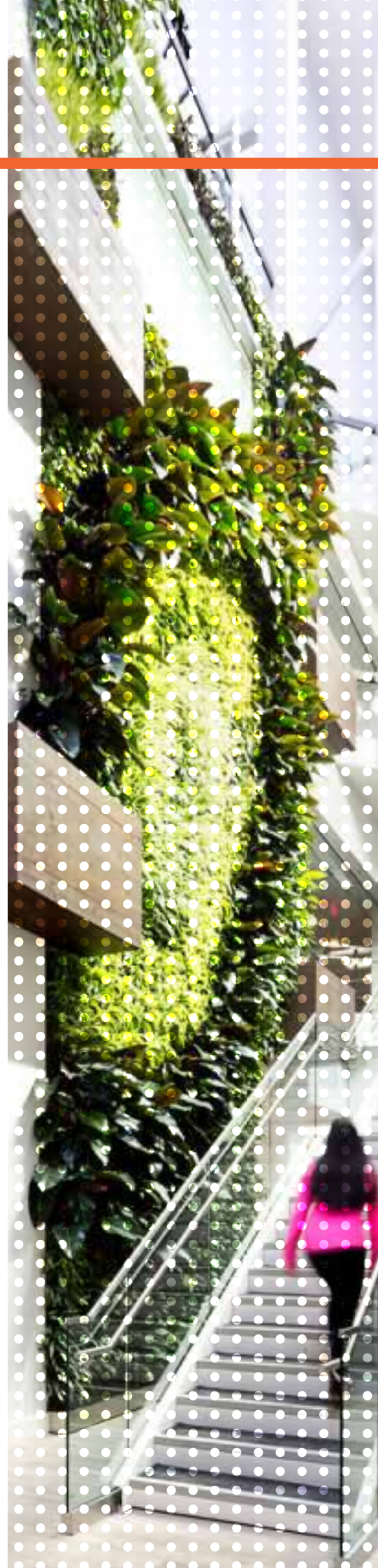
How to read this document

This document outlines how Living Building Challenge imperatives may contribute to achieving WELL features. Conversely, the document indicates which WELL features may contribute to achieving Living Building Challenge imperatives.

IWBI has evaluated this mapping and provided rulings of equivalency for entire WELL features or parts that are satisfied by the Living Building Challenge Imperatives. ILFI has provided similar rulings for which Living Building Challenge Imperatives can be completely or partially satisfied by fulfilling WELL features or parts of features. This analysis was based on Living Building Challenge 3.1 (May 2016) and the WELL Building Standard v1 (Q2 2017).

The document outlines a level of equivalence for each LBC Imperative and WELL feature. Each level is assigned an icon as follows:

Equivalence Icons		
Complete	Partial	Not Equivalent
✓	▲	—

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE™

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE™
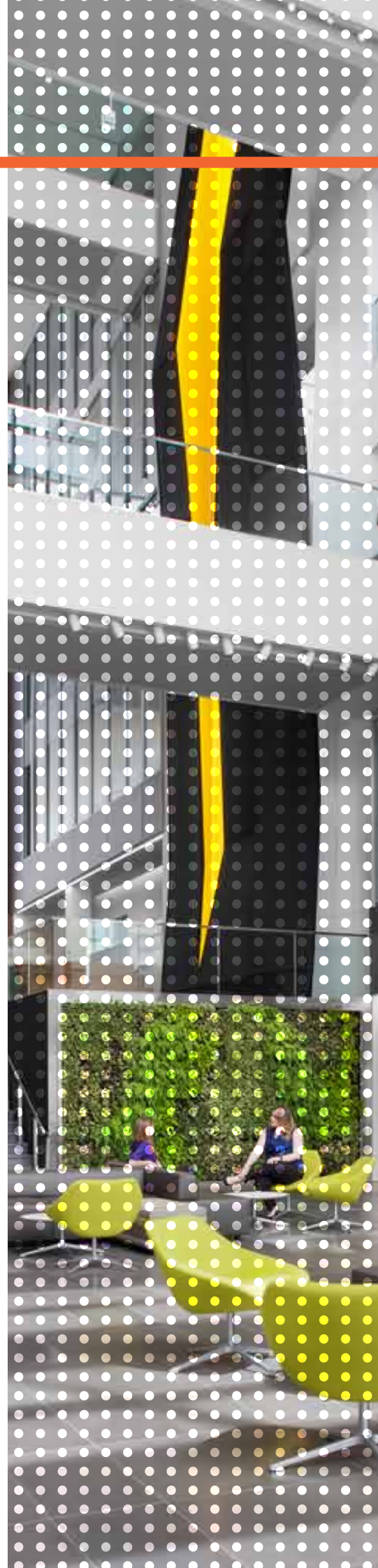
The icons indicate the following:

- Complete: The entire feature or Imperative has been evaluated and deemed satisfactory to achieve the intent of the WELL feature or LBC imperative indicated. The awarded feature or imperative can be used as verification that the requirement has been satisfied.

- Partial: The Imperatives share a similar outcome, though requirements of one are not completely met by the other and it is likely that additional steps will be needed. For example, an awarded feature satisfies a portion of an Imperative's requirements, but additional compliance strategies and documentation are needed.

- Not Equivalent: The Imperative or feature is currently not addressed in one of the programs, or there are similarities of intent but the requirements or focus are sufficiently disparate to resist direct comparison. Some such Imperatives, however, may be recognized under the WELL Innovation category.

Typically, Living Building Challenge Imperatives are broader, and WELL features are more specific in their focus; therefore it can take several WELL features to meet one LBC Imperative, and one Imperative may contribute towards multiple features. Due to this difference, in Table 1: WELL Building Standard to Living Building Challenge, ILBI has listed which WELL features are met by LBC Imperatives. In Table 2: Living Building Challenge to WELL Building Standard, on the other hand, ILFI has listed which additional actions are needed beyond the relevant WELL features and parts. The resulting alignments are shown in the tables below.

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE
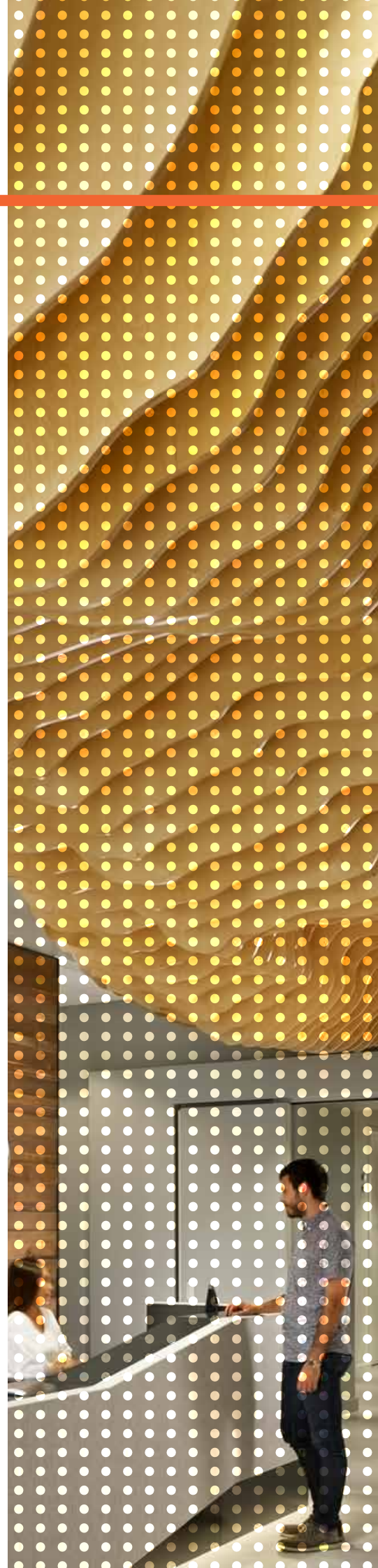
How to apply equivalent outcomes to your project

IWBI and ILFI have agreed upon the equivalent outcomes identified in this document. The tables on the following pages detail LBC imperatives deemed equivalent to WELL features, and vice versa. Please note that there are different levels of equivalency defined under the 'How to read this document' section.

In order to streamline the certification process, reduced documentation may be submitted where outcomes have already been verified in the alternate rating program. Project teams are required to demonstrate that outcomes being applied have been verified with appropriate supporting evidence.

Claiming Living Building Challenge in WELL Building Standard

Where a project has achieved, or is pursuing Living Building Challenge Certification and seeks to apply these efforts to achieve a WELL feature, the project should submit the following during WELL documentation review:

- Short report identifying which LBC imperative are being used to claim WELL features, in line with the guidance provided in this document.

    - If already awarded, proof of awarded LBC imperative/petal may be submitted in lieu of the ascribed WELL verification method in appendix D of the WELL Building Standard.

    - If a project is pursuing LBC and WELL Certification in parallel, the project may indicate that final proof of award will be submitted post project performance verification. In this case the feature will stay as pending until proof of award is submitted.

Projects using a more recent version of the WELL Building Standard can still use the crosswalk without modifications.

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE

Claiming WELL Building Standard in Living Building Challenge

Where a project has achieved WELL Certification and seeks to apply these efforts to achieve a Living Building Challenge Living, Petal or Zero Energy Certification, the project should submit the following during the Living Building Challenge Audit:

- Short report identifying which WELL features are being used to claim Living Building Challenge imperatives, in line with the guidance provided in this document; and

- Supporting evidence for each Living Building Challenge Imperative or part using WELL equivalency

   - Features that are "Complete:" fulfilment of LBC Imperatives may provide proof of awarded WELL feature or part(s) in lieu of the Living Building Challenge documentation for those Imperatives.

   - Features that are "Partial:" fulfilment of LBC Imperatives must provide proof of awarded WELL feature or part(s) as well as documentation of the fulfilment of all listed additional requirements.

INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL
WELL
BUILDING
INSTITUTE
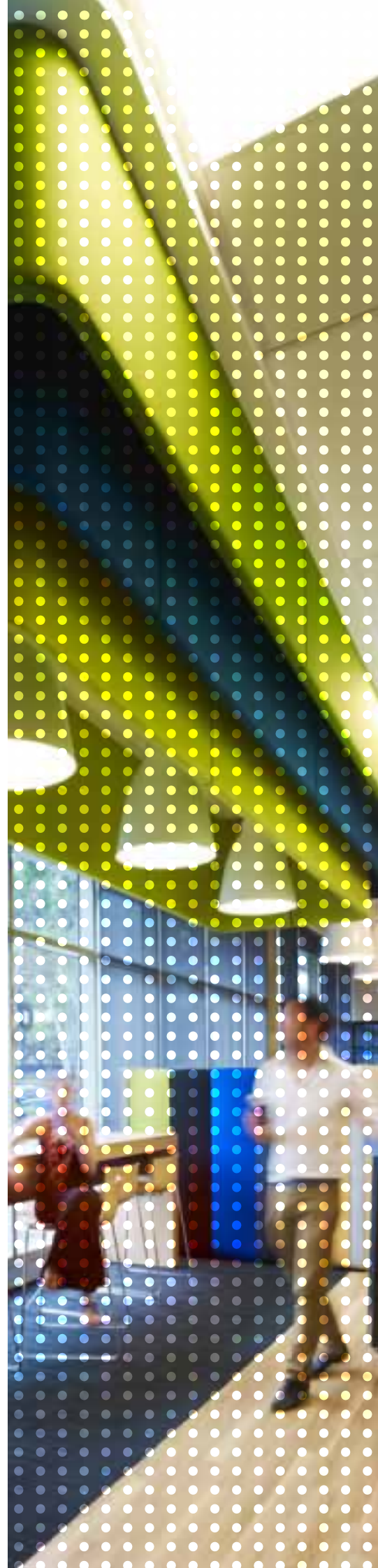
Table 1: WELL Building Standard to Living Building Challenge

This table provides an overview of the alignment between WELL Building Standard features and the Living Building Challenge Imperatives. Look for a WELL feature or feature part(s) on the left to see which LBC Imperatives will contribute to compliance.

Feature No.	WELL Feature Name	Feature Part	LBC Imperative	Equivalence
01	Air quality standards	Standards for Volatile Substances	08 - Healthy interior environment	Part 1 & 2 ✓
		Standards for Particulate Matter and Inorganic Gases		
		Radon		—
02	Smoking ban	Indoor Smoking Ban	08 - Healthy interior environment	All parts
		Outdoor Smoking Ban		
03	Ventilation effectiveness	Ventilation Design		—
		Demand Control Ventilation	08 - Healthy interior environment	✓
		System Balancing		—
04	VOC reduction	Interior Paints and Coatings	08 - Healthy interior environment	All parts ✓
		Interior Adhesives and Sealants		
		Flooring		
		Insulation		
		Furniture and Furnishings		
08	Healthy Entrance	Permanent entryway walk-off systems	08 - Healthy interior environment	All parts ✓
		Entryway air seal		
09	Cleaning protocol	Cleaning Plan for Occupied Spaces	08 - Healthy interior environment	—
11	Fundamental material safety	Asbestos and Lead Restriction	08 - Healthy interior environment	—
		Lead Abatement		—
		Asbestos Abatement		—
		Polychlorinated Biphenyls Abatement		—
		Mercury Limitation		—

17	Direct source ventilation	Pollution Isolation and Exhaust	08 - Healthy interior environment	Part 1b ✓
19	Operable windows	Full Control	07 - Civilized environment	—
		Outdoor Air Measurement		—
		Window Operation Measurement		—
24	Combustion minimization	Appliance and heater combustion ban	06 - Net positive energy	Part 1&2 ✓
		Low-emission combustion sources		
		Engine exhaust reduction		—
25	Toxic material reduction	Perfluorinated compound limitation	10 - Red list	All parts ✓
		Flame retardant limitation		
		Phthalate (plasticizers) limitation		
		Isocyanate – based polyurethane limitation		
		Urea – formaldehyde restriction		
26	Enhanced material safety	Precautionary material selection	10 - Red list	✓
51	Food production	Gardening space	02 - Urban agriculture	All parts
		Planting support		
64	Interior fitness circulation	Stair-accessibility		—
		Stair promotion	04 - Human-powered living	—
		Facilitative aesthetics		—
65	Activity incentive program	Activity incentives programs	04 - Human-powered living	—
67	Exterior active design	Pedestrian Amenities	04 - Human-powered living	—
		Pedestrian Promotion		—
		Neighborhood Connectivity		✓
69	Active transportation support	Bicycle Storage and Support	04 - Human-powered living	—
		Post Commute and Workout Facilities		—
72	Accessible design	Accessibility and usability	16 - Universal access to nature and place	✓

INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL WELL BUILDING INSTITUTE

Table 1: WELL Building Standard to Living Building Challenge

87	Beauty and Design I	Beauty and mindful design	19 - Beauty and spirit	✓
88	Biophilia I - Qualitative	Nature incorporation	09 - Biophilic environment	All parts ✓
		Pattern incorporation		
		Nature interaction		
97	Material transparency	Material information	12 - Responsible industry	All parts ✓
		Accessible information		
98	Organizational transparency	Transparency program participation	18 - JUST organizations	✓

Table 2: Living Building Challenge to WELL Building Standard

This table provides an overview of the alignment between Living Building Challenge Imperatives and WELL Building Standard features. Look for an Imperative on the left to see which WELL feature, or feature part will contribute to compliance.

LBC Imperative		WELL features	Additional requirements	Alignment
No.	Name			
1	Limits to Growth	Not addressed		—
2	Urban Agriculture	51 - Food production – Part 1	• Area of food production must meet LBC requirements based on project FAR • Food production areas (on or off-site) must meet the requirements of other targeted Imperatives (e.g. Red List)	▲
3	Habitat Exchange	Not addressed		—
4	Human-powered Living	64 - Interior fitness circulation 65 - Activity incentive programs 69 - Active transportation support	• Provision of awnings for pedestrian routes & cover over bike racks • Advocacy in the community through letters, to facilitate the uptake of human powered transportation. • Compliance with subsidy requirements • Compliance with electric vehicle requirements. • Demonstrate that density of the site was not lowered. • Bike for 15% of the occupants	▲
5	Net Positive Water	Not addressed		—
6	Net Positive Energy	24 - Combustion minimization – Part 1	Team should start with the I-06 requirements • Avoid Combustion in the project, unless addressed under a current LBC Exception • Supply 105% of energy needs thought on-site renewables on a net annual basis • Provide on-site energy storage for resilience	▲
7	Civilized Environment	19 - Operable windows – Parts 1 & 2 61 – Right to Light	A maximum distance of 9m to all staffed workstations.	▲
8	Healthy Interior Environment	01 - Air quality standards 02 - Smoking ban 03 - Ventilation effectiveness - Parts 1 & 2 04 - VOC reduction 08 - Healthy entrance 09 - Cleaning protocol 17 - Direct source ventilation	• Test indoor air quality both before, and between three and twelve months after occupancy • Ban smoking on the property • Comply with CDPH requirement for all eligible products besides paints, coatings, adhesives and sealants, or meet an existing exception	▲

INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL WELL BUILDING INSTITUTE

9	Biophilic Environment	88 - Biophilia I - Qualitative	• Hold an eight hour Biophilic exploration with critical team members • Include one additional biophilic feature in the project	▲
10	Red List	11 - Fundamental material safety 25 - Toxic material reduction 26 - Enhanced material safety	Team should start with the I-10 requirements. • Screen C2C Gold & Platinum certified products for formaldehyde • Comply with the requirements in Imperative 10 related to chemicals not addressed by Features 11, 25 and 26. • Screen all HPDs against the Red List	▲
11	Embodied Carbon Footprint	Not addressed		—
12	Responsible Industry	97 - Material transparency	• Meet the FSC and advocacy requirement of Imperative 12	▲
13	Living Economy Sourcing	Not addressed		—
14	Net Positive Waste	Not addressed		—
15	Human Scale + Human Places	67 - Exterior active design	• Design to the parameters established for Surface Cover, Signage and Proportion	▲
16	Universal Access to Nature & Place	72 - Accessible design	• External aspects of the project are open to the public • The project has not blocked adjacent property access to sunlight • The project has not blocked community access to fresh air or water.	▲
17	Equitable Investment	96 – Altruism – Part 2	• All matches to employee donations can be attributed towards the I17 total requirement. Funds directly contributed by employees do not contribute to compliance.	▲
18	JUST Organizations	98 - Organizational transparency –Part 1a	• Send out Just program literature to ten project consultants, sub-consultants or product suppliers.	▲
19	Beauty & Spirit	87 - Beauty and design I	-	✓
20	Inspiration & Education	Not addressed		—