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# LIVING FUTURE ACCREDITATION EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO LFA  
FROM START TO FINISH

## WHAT IS LFA?

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

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

*(click to jump to page)*

BENEFITS OF LFA	2
REQUIREMENTS	3-4
COST	5
LFA FAST TRACK	6
DISCOUNTS & GROUP LFA	7
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	8-9

## 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

# LFA

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

### 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 through opportunities provided by ILFI

Advance the regenerative buildings movement by applying your LFA knowledge and leading the way

#### BECOME A LIVING FUTURE MEMBER.

Members receive 10% off all online courses, certificates, and LFA—and exclusive access to members-only continuing education and networking opportunities. Members also receive discounts on other ILFI education such as Ecotone books and Living Future Conference tickets. Join a global community of advocates and make valuable connections.

[Become a member](#)

#### ATTEND THE LIVING FUTURE CONFERENCE.

Participate in our annual, global gathering of stakeholders from the built environment who are addressing climate, health, and justice issues. Connect with other LFA professionals and apply to be a speaker.

[Register for the conference](#)

#### TAKE ACTION WITH YOUR LFA.

Integrate regenerative design into your work and make the jump to LBC and other Living Future Challenges. From exploring feasibility all the way through the certification audit or label publication, leverage your LFA to advocate for transformational change and dare to challenge the norm.

[Learn more about ILFI programs](#)



# LFA

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



### LFA REQUIREMENTS

**Did you know?** To achieve LFA, there's no final exam—instead, you'll complete 16 General credits and the LFA Foundational Curriculum in an easy to manage, self-paced online format. ILFI will audit your transcript and share an achievement kit to celebrate.

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

Enrolling in the LFA Foundational Curriculum is the first step to starting your LFA. During enrollment, you'll also create your new (or update your existing) Living Future Education account.

[Begin enrollment](#)

#### STEP 2: LEARN! COMPLETE EDUCATION 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 self-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 the 20 Foundational LFA CE credits required for Living Future Accreditation. It 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

(alongside advanced sustainability topics) and are updated periodically to identify the best course offerings for the credential. You may 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 members-only online [Ecotone Book Club](#)
- Participating in the annual [Living Future Conference](#)
- Living Future project team work experience, including serving as an official auditor or 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

Credits earned via [Living Future Education online courses](#) will be automatically recorded on your transcript, and all other completed education must be self-reported (see next section).

*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.*

# 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**

### STEP 3: ACHIEVE LFA AND APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE

After you have completed the education, you'll conduct a self-audit to automatically add your LFA to the queue for ILFI verification. Upon successful review, ILFI will provide resources for celebrating your achievement and connecting with our community.

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

## LFA ACHIEVEMENT CHECKLIST

☐ **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**

- 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 or an official auditor on a Living Future project pursuing certification or publication of a transparency label
  - Apply to speak at the next [Living Future Conference](#)



# 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.

#### LFA FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM

**\$750 USD (non-member)**

**\$675 USD (member)**

*Living Future Members save 10%.*

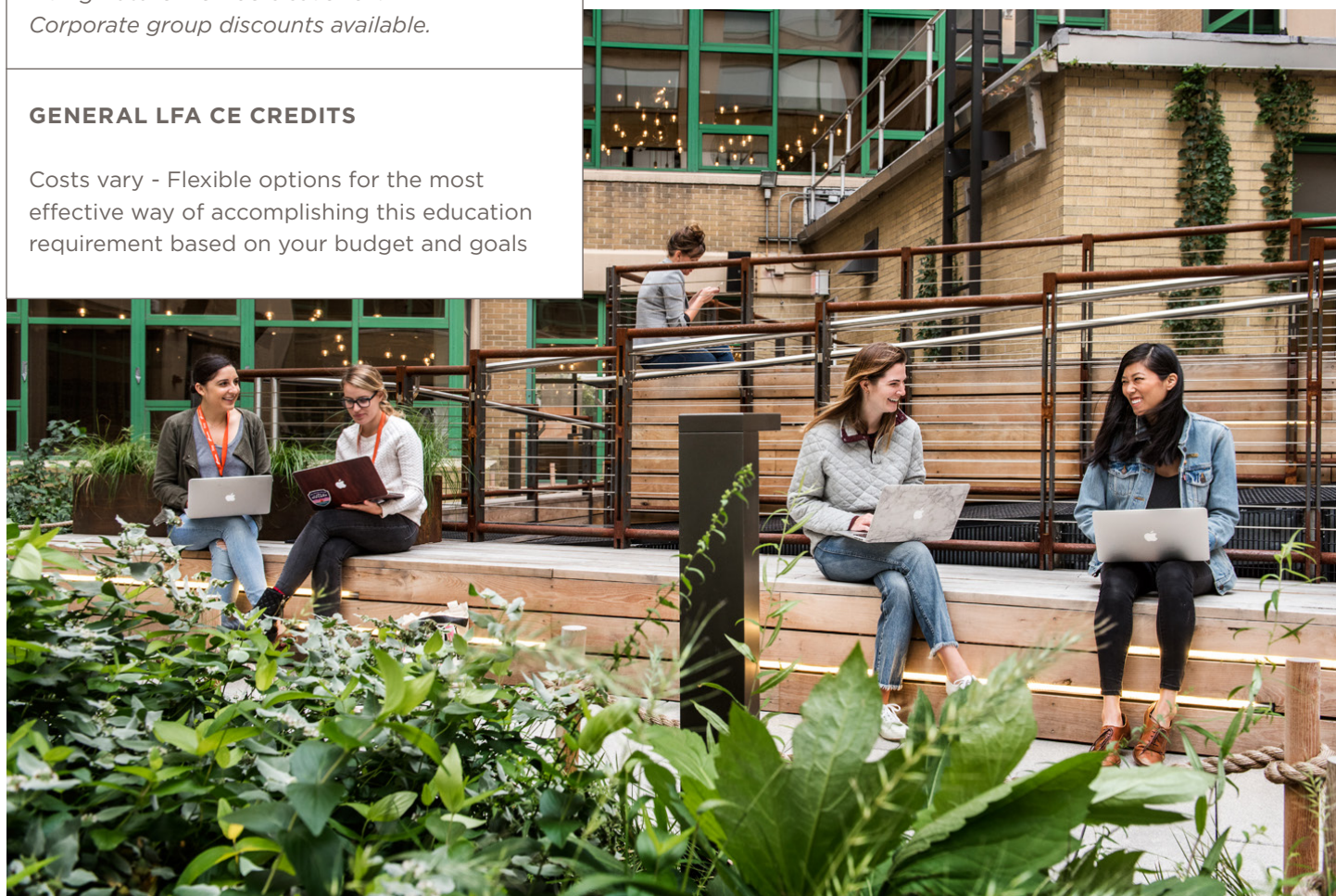
*Corporate group discounts available.*

#### 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 Living Future Members. A larger discount is available for groups via Corporate Membership Packages that also include other benefits. Details available [here](#).

A savings on General credits is available for aspiring LFA professionals who also maintain another green building credential—choose the Fast Track option to fulfill this requirement at no additional cost. Details available [here](#).





# LFA

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



### 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:

- BREEAM
- CPHC (PHI/PHIUS)
- EcoDistricts
- Green Star (Int'l GBC)
- LA CES
- LEED (*excluding Legacy*)
- WELL

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.

Are you ready to Fast Track your LFA? Any time after enrollment, log in to [education.living-future.org](https://education.living-future.org) and upload evidence of your other active credential to your transcript.

[Log in + submit other credential](#)





# LFA

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

### DISCOUNTS

There are two ways you can save big on the cost of LFA:

1. Become a Living Future Member
2. Group LFA
  - a. Groups 5+
  - b. Large groups 25+

### DISCOUNTS FOR LIVING FUTURE MEMBERS

Members receive 10% off all online courses, certificates, and LFA—and exclusive access to members-only continuing education and networking opportunities. Members also receive discounts on other ILFI education such as Ecotone books and Living Future Conference tickets.

[Become a member](#)

### DISCOUNTS FOR GROUP LFA

Group packages offer a streamlined and discounted way to facilitate learning more about regenerative design with your colleagues (and to be recognized for these efforts!).

Benefits for your team include:

- Exclusive access to peer-to-peer and expert-led education experiences, company promotion, and networking opportunities
- Reduced overall cost of accreditation
- Growth of your organization's capacity to work on and advocate for advanced sustainable design projects
- Confidence responding to and leading projects pursuing Living Future Challenge certifications and labels
- Having a breadth AND depth of regenerative design knowledge on the team

In addition to discounted LFA Foundational Curriculum enrollments and online course packs for General credits, packages may also include memberships, Ecotone books, recognition on our website, and exclusive thought leadership opportunities.

*Note: Non-profit and public organizations receive an additional 40% fee reduction on these packages.*

### Explore group packages

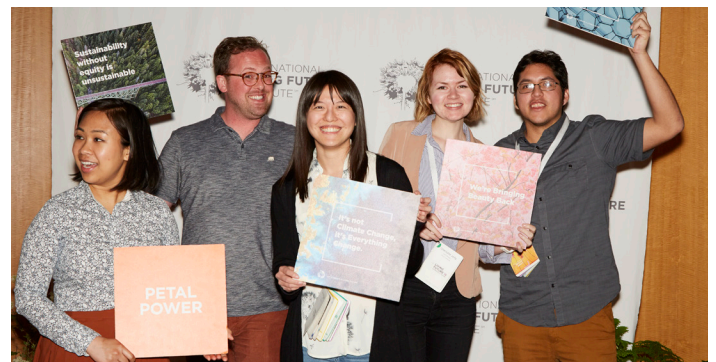
Listed below are some of the 70+ organizations who have already pursued LFA together:

- 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

### HOW TO ACHIEVE LFA WITH A GROUP

1. Determine your group size and review our packages.
2. Email [LFA@living-future.org](mailto:LFA@living-future.org) to establish the group, discuss package customization, and pay via invoice.
3. Receive access to your package benefits and distribute them amongst your team.
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.



# LFA

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



### 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 and certificates based on your own interests and goals, at your own pace

- Save 10% on all online education enrollments as a Living Future Member! Completing the first-of-its-kind 12-hour biophilic design certificate, for example, offers 9 General credits AND an additional accomplishment to display. 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 sessions of your choosing (CEUs will be listed in each session description). 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

- Credit is available exclusively for Living Future Members, who also save 10% on all titles! Read the book(s) of your choice. Then, complete the self-reporting activities to record the credits in your Living Future Education account [here](#).



# LFA

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Example 4:** Work on a [Just Label](#), a [Living Building](#), etc. as a member of the project team (or as an auditor)

- Contribute to the publication of a label or the design, construction, manufacturing, or certification 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!

### 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 completed some 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.



International Living Future Institute

### 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.

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?

Take action to make an impact with your knowledge and expertise.

- **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](mailto:LFA@living-future.org)