

Certification: BREEAM, LEED and SITES

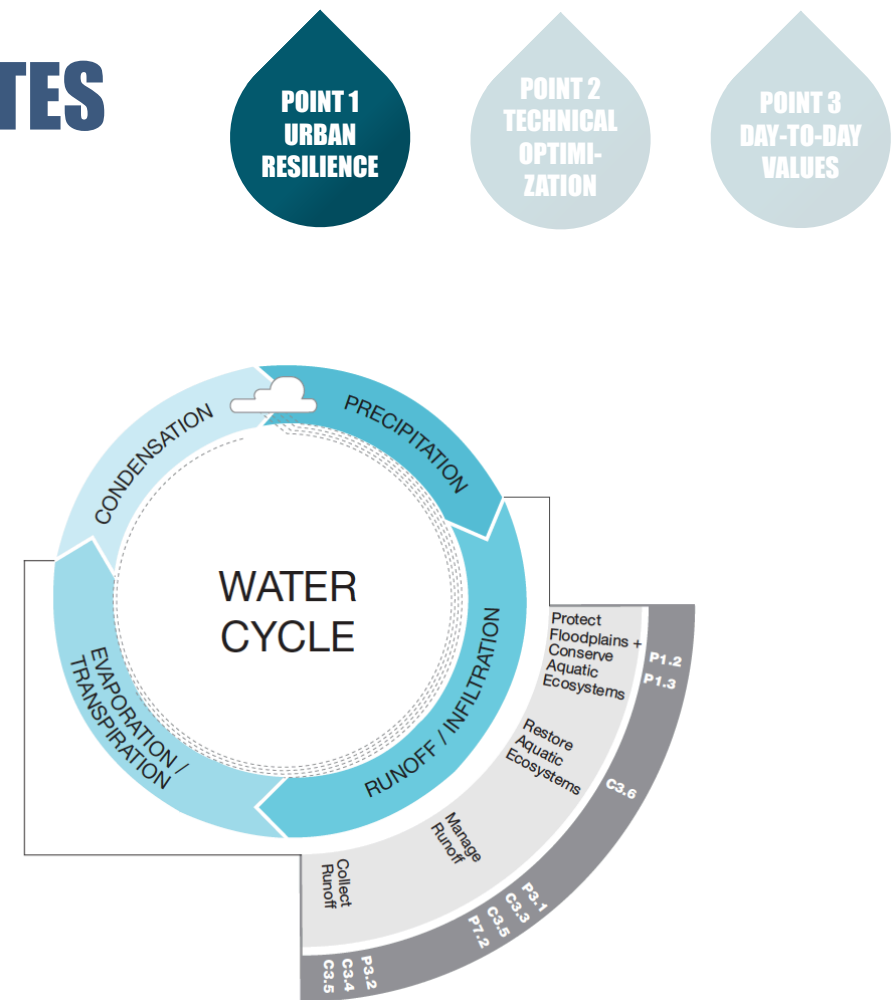
BREEAM Communities, LEED ND and SITES are examples of third party verification systems for sustainable neighbourhoods and site development projects. BREEAM and LEED certifications are already quite widely applied systems, especially in the building industry, whereas SITES is a more recent certification system focusing on site ecology and environmental aspects.

Why: Certifications are a way to encourage projects to achieve certain environmental goals. By achieving a certificate, a company or a municipality can showcase its environmental goals.

Each of the named assessment systems consider sustainable storm water management and hydrology of the site at some level. However, the tools are flexible and fulfilment of all the requirements is not compulsory for gaining certification. Therefore, it might be possible to become certified without incorporating an integrated storm water management approach.

How: Certifications are based on point systems: the number of points that a project earns determines the certification level it receives. Projects pursuing a certification earn points across several areas that address sustainability issues. This process is performed through online platforms (LEED and SITES) or a trained assessor is needed to complete the assessment (BREEAM).

Good to know: Tools are voluntary, the use of them requires some expertise, and there are fees to be paid to receive certification. Developers of the certification systems provide training for assessors.



The diagram illustrates the water related actions encouraged by SITES.
(SITES v2 Rating System Guidebook 2015)

More information:

LEED and stormwater:
www.usgbc.org/credits/existing-buildings/v2009/ssc6

SITES: www.sustainablesites.org/certification

BREEAM Communities: www.breeam.com/communities

