



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is EarthCraft Light Commercial (ECLC)?

ECLC is a regional green building certification program focusing on small-scale commercial projects in the Southeastern United States (Climate Zones 2a, 3a, 4a).

2. What type of projects can certify as ECLC?

Projects best suited for the ECLC program are small-scale (up to 15,000 square feet) commercial new construction or major renovation projects with simple mechanical systems. Projects from 15,000 to 25,000 square feet may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

3. Does the project team need to be EarthCraft certified to seek ECLC certification for a commercial building?

No. Project team members (contractor, architect, mechanical engineer, etc.) do not have to have any prior certifications or credentialing to participate on a EarthCraft Light Commercial project.

4. When should a project register to seek ECLC certification?

The owner or owner's representative should register the project as early in the design process as possible. Projects that are already under construction are ineligible. For information on project eligibility and the registration process, refer to the introduction section of the ECLC Technical Guidelines.

5. What is the cost of certifying a project?

Cost for an ECLC certification is a \$6,000 base fee for projects up to 3,000 square feet + \$0.50/square foot for additional square footage (over 3,000 square feet). Costs are inclusive of project administration, design and planning review, pre-construction meeting, site visits and performance testing. Additional travel costs may apply for projects outside of metro Atlanta.

6. How does ECLC differ from other commercial green building programs?

ECLC was designed as a comprehensive, affordable program to specifically meet the needs of small-scale commercial projects in the southeastern United States. Program administration relies heavily on site inspections and diagnostic testing, which significantly reduces the amount of paperwork required from the project team.

7. When will training programs be available for ECLC?

"Introducing EarthCraft Light Commercial," is an introductory level course currently available for those interested in learning more about ECLC and the certification process. For a complete list of current training programs including those for other EarthCraft programs, such as EarthCraft House, EarthCraft Renovations, and EarthCraft Multifamily, visit www.earthcraft.org or www.southface.org.

8. Who administers the ECLC program?

ECLC is administered by Southface Commercial Green Building Services as part of the EarthCraft family programs. EarthCraft was established in 1999 with the launch of EarthCraft House, a residential green building initiative for single family homes developed by Southface and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association. Since then, the EarthCraft program has expanded to EarthCraft Multifamily, EarthCraft Renovation and EarthCraft Communities. EarthCraft Light Commercial is the newest of EarthCraft family programs.

*** For more information about ECLC, visit www.southface.org – OR – email lightcommercial@earthcraft.org*

