Regenerative Design: Community Scale Strategies

Living Community Challenge (LCC)  
International Living Future Institute 2014

The Living Community Challenge has two main rules:
1. First, that all Imperatives are mandatory.
2. Certification can only be given to completed/real performance (not to modeled or anticipated work).

The Seven Petals* & Twenty Imperatives*
1. Place  
   - Limits to growth
   - Urban agriculture
   - Habitat exchange
   - Human-powered living
2. Water  
   - Net Positive water
3. Energy  
   - Net Positive energy
4. Health & Happiness  
   - Civilized environment
   - Healthy neighborhood design
   - Biophilic environment
   - Resilient community connections
5. Materials  
   - Living materials plan
   - Embodied carbon footprint
   - Net Positive waste
6. Equity  
   - Human scale & humane places
   - Universal access to nature & place
   - Access to community services
   - Equitable investment
   - Just organizations
7. Beauty  
   - Beauty & spirit
   - Inspiration & education

Criteria Needed to Register for the LCC
1. Diversity of Uses
2. Multiple Buildings
3. At Least One Multi-Modal Street
4. Shared Infrastructure (optional)

21st Century Development
AIA Minnesota / Center for Sustainable Building Research

Twenty-First Century Development aims to benefit all living systems through the co-evolution and regeneration of both human and natural systems.

1. Humans:  
   - Improve health, provide healthy living & working environments, & create a productive, equitable society
2. Environment:  
   - Regenerate all resources used, & restore/renew local and regional ecosystems

Performance Areas
The 7 performance areas and their subcategories are based off of the LCC Petals and Imperatives.

The Five Degrees of Performance Levels (Applied to each subcategory/Imperative)
1. Standard
2. Good
3. Better
4. Living Community Principles
5. Regenerative

BREEAM
Building Research Establishment Ltd

BREEAM standards aim to encourage social and economic benefits while mitigating environmental impacts.

Three Steps in Assessing Sustainability:
1. Site selection/establishing principles
2. Determining development layout
3. Designing the details

Five Assessment Categories:
1. Social and economic wellbeing
   - Step 1: Flood risk, noise pollution, demographic needs, & economic impact
   - Step 2: Delivery of services, microclimate, adapting to climate change, green infrastructure, local parking, flood risk management, housing provision, & public realm
   - Step 3: Local vernacular, inclusive design, light pollution, & training/skills
2. Resources and energy
   - Step 1: Energy strategy, existing buildings/infrastructure, & water strategy
   - Step 2: N/A
   - Step 3: Sustainable buildings, low impact materials, resource efficiency, transport carbon emissions
3. Land use and ecology
   - Step 1: Ecology strategy & land use
   - Step 2: Water pollution, ecological value enhancement, & landscape
   - Step 3: Rainwater harvesting
4. Transport and movement
   - Transportation assessment
   - Cycling network, public transport access, & safe/approaching streets
   - Cycling & public transport facilities
5. Governance
   - Consultation plan
   - Design & consultation/engagement
   - Community facility management

Regenesis
Aiming beyond the goal to do less harm, Regenesis is committed to proving that human activity can be a source of health and regeneration, rather than destruction and degradation.

Three Distinct But Complimentary Approaches to Change:
1. Living Systems Thinking
2. Permaculture
3. Developmental Change Processes

Designing for Evolution Guidelines:
1. Maintain the potential for evolution
2. Align with the wisdom of nature
3. Define projects by their roles
4. Grow value-generating capacity

Understanding Place to Tailor Sustainable Design Strategies:
1. How big is it here?
   - Identifying the appropriate scale
2. How does here work?
   - Patterns of geophysical/biological/human Organizing
3. What kind of here is this?
   - How do local people describe/express/love their place?

Living Environments in Natural, Social, and Economic Systems (LENSES)
Center for Living Environments and Regeneration (CLEAR)

“LENSES provides a structured process for seeing and realizing the full potential of a project or program. It is not a checklist or a rating system, but rather a facilitated step-by-step process for regenerative development. Simply put, regeneration is about increasing vitality, viability, and capacity to evolve.”

Five Principles of Regenerative Development:
1. Working in wholes rather than parts
   - When viewing world systems as nested wholes, interconnections and relationships become clear
   - These interconnections and relationships help to engage people, places, and organizations
2. Being of service
   - Becoming indispensable as professionals, organizations, and communities to those we exist with
3. Account for uniqueness
   - By identifying and connecting to uniqueness, we can better activate authentic, inspired change across natural, social, and economic systems
4. From separate to aligned with nature
   - Intentionally increasing vitality, viability, and capacity to evolve
5. From problems to potential
   - Recognizing opportunities at every turn
   - Thinking about regenerative design as realizing potential instead of solving problems

Other Large Scale Regenerative Design Focused Organizations and Individuals:

Biophilia Foundation
“Premised on the belief that only private landowners’ efforts to restore and protect natural resources, especially wildlife habitat, will recover the living resources of the degraded lands and watersheds.”

Arocasanti Cosanti Foundation
“Continues to be developed as an experiential learning center, walk-through demonstration of how to pursue efficient “lean” alternatives to urban sprawl.”

Biophilic Cities
“Partners with cities, scholars and advocates from across the globe to build an understanding of the value and contribution of nature in cities to the lives of urban residents.”

Global Ecovillage Network (GEN)
“Envisions a world of empowered citizens and communities, designing and implementing their own pathways to a sustainable future, and building bridges of hope and international solidarity.”

Timothy Beatley
Biophilic Cities, 2011
“This book is a first effort at explicating and tentatively defining what a biophilic city is and what it might look and feel like.”

https://living-future.org/lcc/basics/  
https://www.21stcenturydevelopment.org/  
https://www.breeam.com/discover/technical-standards/community/  
https://regenesisgroup.com/  
https://regenesisgroup.com/  
https://www.clearabundance.org/lenses/  
https://www.biophiliafoundation.org/efforts/  
https://www.biophiliccities.org/  
https://www.cosantifoundation.org/  
https://www.learnsocen.org/about/vision-mission-goals/  
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https://www.cleantechnology.org/  
https://www.globalecovillage.org/about/cosmission-goals/  
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https://www.buildingresearch.org/  
https://21stcenturydevelopment.org/  
https://cleantechnology.org/  
https://regenesisgroup.com/