



How SPI Compares to Other Standards

Understanding similarities and differences between SPI and other standards helps to clarify SPI’s goals and focus.

Name	description	Applies to	Industry specific?	Cross-reference to SPI Certification
SPI	evaluates capability and effectiveness in delivering sustainability services	organizations	yes	n/a
LEED Building Rating System	Rates sustainable building features	Buildings	Yes	Project performance outcomes
LEED Green Associate/LEED AP	Recognition of individual knowledge (& some experience)	individuals	Yes	HR, training
ISO	Compliance with best practices	organizations	No	Processes, outcomes
B Corp	Corporate Sustainability reporting	organizations	No	Social & economic outcomes
Ceres	Corporate Sustainability reporting	organizations	No	Social & economic outcomes
GRI	CSR	organizations	Somewhat (Real Estate and Construction Sector Supplement)	Social & economic outcomes
LEAN Construction	Efficient construction processes	Organizations	Yes	processes
Green Advantage	Trade-specific Training cert	Individuals (subcontractors)	Yes	
ABC Green Contractor	Focus on green workplace environment & training	Organizations (contractors, subcontractors)	Yes	Organizational outcomes

SPI certification resembles ISO in important ways. The ISO 9000 series, which monitors and audits quality in organizations, provides a useful parallel. As ISO focuses on identifying, monitoring and auditing

processes essential to delivering consistently high quality, SPI identifies, monitors and audits the essential processes that achieve green building performance. As with ISO, SPI does not seek to impose uniform systems or documentation. Rather, we certify that an organization consistently uses appropriate and effective systems and that these systems allow the organization to achieve high levels of sustainable performance. SPI differs from ISO in that ISO measures *compliance* while SPI seeks evidence that best practices are being *deployed effectively*.

SPI differs from LEED in focusing on organization-wide processes, not an individual's technical knowledge or the performance of a particular building or large-scale project. Achieving LEED certification for projects offers one measure of the effectiveness of an organization's sustainable processes, and having LEED Accredited Professionals in the firm can help achieve sustainable results. Neither of these, however, guarantees that an entire organization has consistent capabilities. SPI is also similar to LEED-EBOM (LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance) in that it begins with the establishment of policies whose impacts are evaluated over time. Participating organizations are then re-evaluated periodically to validate maintenance of quality.#

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