

# LEED in Residential Construction

## Methodology

- Qualitative Data
- Four Semi-Structured Interviews

## Interview Questions

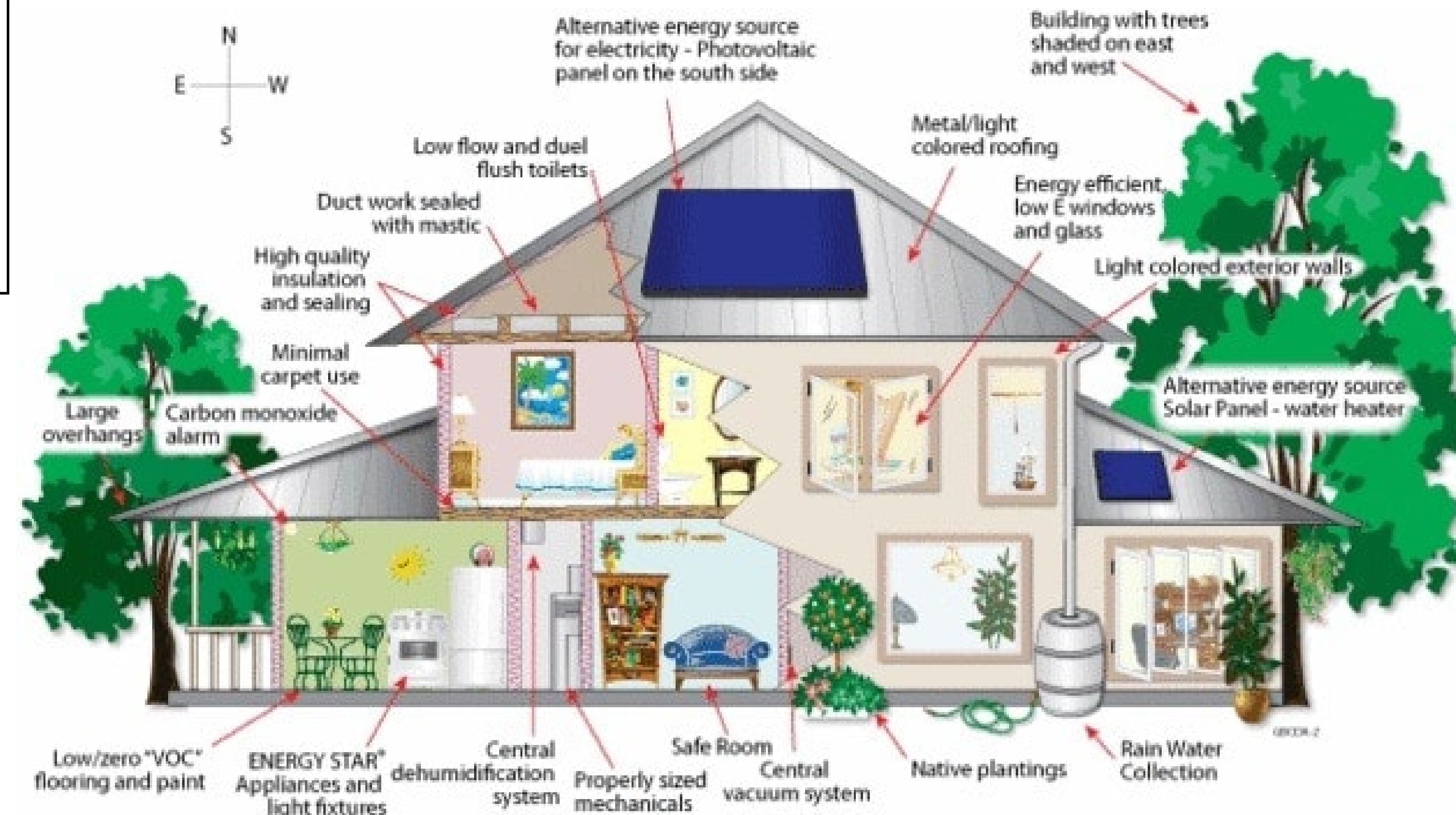
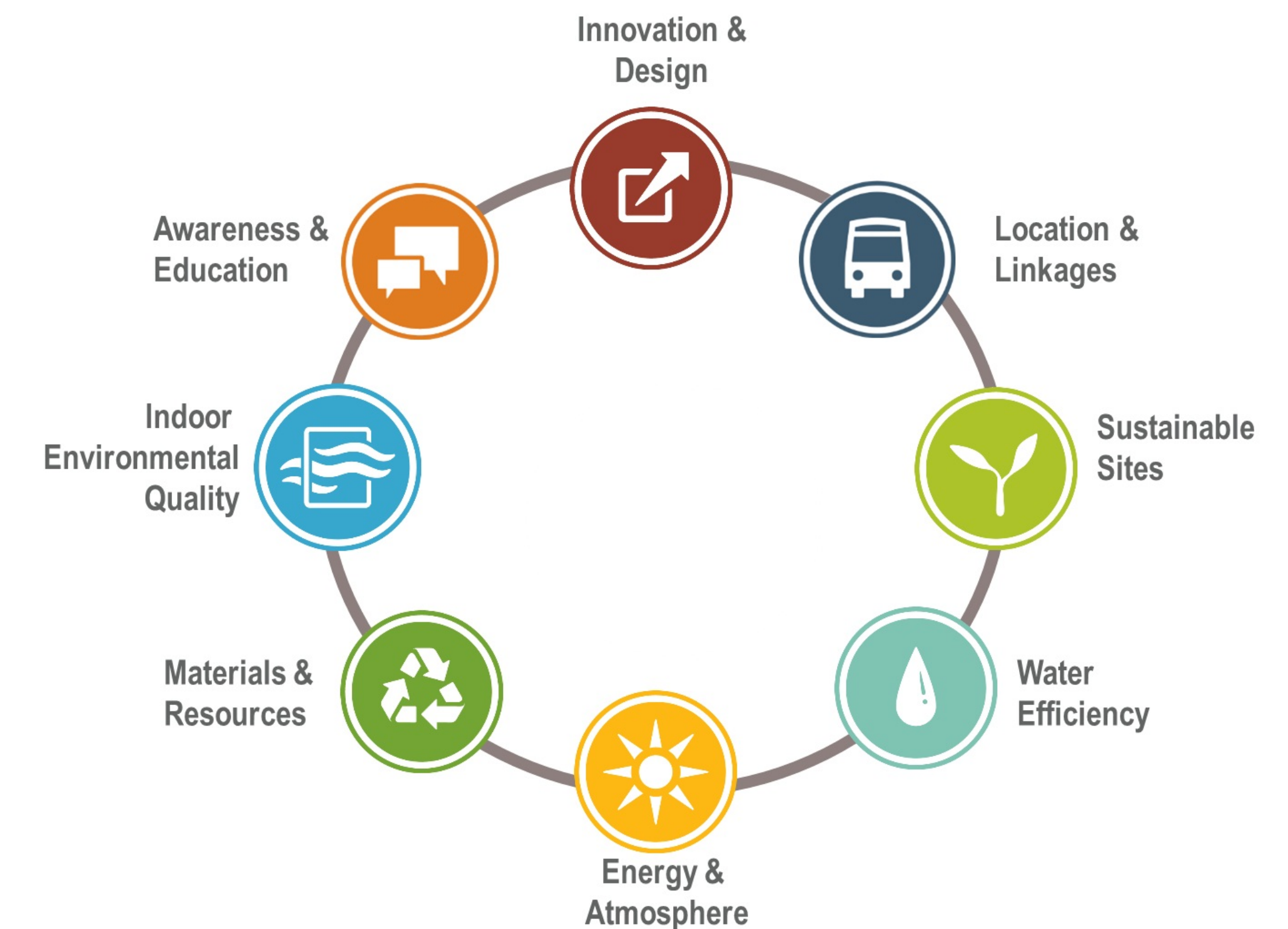
- Should LEED certification be used in residential construction/ how feasible is it?
- What green factors that LEED requires do home buyers seem to be prioritizing?
- Would the cost be larger for the home buyer initially but be worth it over time?
- As a builder do you see or don't see a value that a LEED certification could bring?



## Abstract

Sustainability and green building have been an aspect of the construction industry that over the past few years has come to the forefront. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) leads the push in all buildings having a standard to follow when it comes to building sustainably. With LEED certification there is a point system that gives the builders criteria to follow in order to receive their certification. Now this certification has been used widely with commercial buildings but not heavily with residential. This study aims to look at LEED in the residential building sector through four semi structured interviews to see whether homebuilders see the need and feasibility for it and whether homeowners are wanting it. Three themes came out of the interviews including California Building Codes, homeowner desires, and implemented sustainable and green building. The study found that the homebuilders feel that through the codes they have to follow, their own implemented sustainable practices, and what homeowners are wanting in their homes that LEED is not crucial in residential construction. However, the homebuilders did feel that there are ways that they can improve upon how sustainable they are.

**Key Words:** LEED, residential construction, homeowners, sustainability



## Major Themes Identified

- The three themes that were found through the interviews:
1. California Building Codes
  2. Homeowners Desires
  3. Implemented Sustainable and Green Building

Harley Holbrook  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo, CA

hmholbro@calpoly.edu