



## EarthCraft Light Commercial Frequently Asked Questions

### The Program

- **How does ECLC differ from other commercial green building programs?**  
ECLC was designed as a collaborative, comprehensive, and 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 reduced the amount of paperwork required from the project team.
- **Can a project be certified ECLC outside of the Southeast?**  
Yes! Although the project was specially designed for commercial buildings in the Southeastern United States (Climate Zones 2a, 3a, 4a), all buildings can benefit from utility savings and improved performance of their commercial space.
- **Who administers the ECLC program?**  
ECLC and the EarthCraft family of programs is administered by Southface Institute's Marketplace Solutions department. EarthCraft was established in 1999 with the launch of EarthCraft House, a green building initiative for single family homes developed by Southface and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association. Today, the EarthCraft family of programs includes EarthCraft Multifamily, EarthCraft Renovation (single family, multifamily, and light commercial), EarthCraft Communities, EarthCraft Sustainable Preservation, and EarthCraft Light Commercial.

### Registration

- **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 on an ECLC project.
- **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.
- **What fees are associated with the ECLC program?**  
All ECLC projects including FitOut and Ready require a flat project registration fee depending on finished condition square footage. The project registration fee includes a design review and an indoor plaque to display once the project is certified. ECLC projects will also require an EarthCraft Technical Advisor (TA) as part of third-party field verification. EarthCraft TAs work in a competitive market and will price their services depending on project scope.