



WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE



WEDG SERVICES

WHAT IS WEDG?

WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) is a rating system that recognizes developers and landowners for resilient, sustainable, and accessible infrastructure and design at the water's edge. Developed by a cross-cutting field of experts led by the Waterfront Alliance, WEDG consolidates guidance and expertise amid complex regulatory environments and the increasing threats of climate change and coastal storms.

WHAT WE OFFER

WEDG is for design and risk professionals, developers and landowners, regulators and government officials, and communities. WEDG projects face fewer coastal climate risks and maximize social and ecological benefits at the water's edge through:

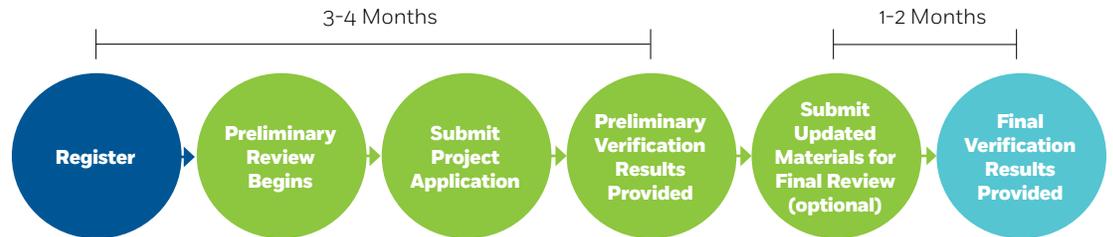
- **WEDG Verification:** a technical review of any waterfront project that touches the water's edge to determine whether the project meets the highest possible standard for resilience, ecology, and access.
- **WEDG Professionals:** continuing education, credentialing, and networking for design, real estate, planning, community development, and risk professionals.

PROJECT REVIEW FOR VERIFICATION

Projects are encouraged to engage early in the planning process to inform designs, maximize performance, and improve likelihood of achieving WEDG Verification. Two options are available for project review. Note that pricing is based on the process itself, and WEDG Verification status is only achieved if the project scores 115/215 possible points or higher, as described in the WEDG Manual.

Option 1: Preliminary + Final Review (suggested)

Projects are eligible for the preliminary review in the late concept/early schematic design phase.



Option 2: Final Review

Projects must submit 100 percent complete construction documents for final review.



How It Works

Waterfront projects seeking WEDG Verification can earn points across six categories that address key aspects of climate resilience, access, sustainability, community engagement, and innovation. There are 36 credits in the WEDG rating system which help guide multi-disciplinary teams towards context-specific strategies for excellent waterfront design, including:

- **Assessing current and future coastal risks** to sea level rise, storm surge, and rain-based flooding (Credit 0.2)
- **Conducting an equitable public engagement process** to maximize community outcomes (Credit 0.3)
- **Siting and design to reduce risks to coastal hazards**, through set-backs, nature-based, and structural strategies (Credit 1.1)
- **Creating inspiring, state of the art shorelines** that promote resilience, ecology, and direct access for recreation and programming (Category 2 and 3)
- **Reimagining urban habitats and green infrastructure** through landscape design and stormwater management (Category 4)

Pricing

The WEDG rating system stands alongside and is comparable to the rigorous criteria set through LEED, Envision and other industry leading rating systems. Pricing is based on the estimated capital costs of WEDG aspects of the project, including (but not limited to): site-wide landscape design and outdoor public access area, in-water features and infrastructure, structural resiliency components (e.g., dry-floodproofing of building facades). Project Verification costs must be paid in full prior to project review and are not refundable if the project does not achieve WEDG Verification status upon final review. Fees are assessed on a project-by-project basis and may fall within the ranges stated below as determined by the Waterfront Alliance.

Project Review Pricing

Project Capital Costs (\$M)	Preliminary Review + Final Review	Final Review
<10	\$10,000	\$8,000
10-99	\$15,000	\$12,000
100-249	\$20,000	\$18,000
250+	Contact us for a quote	Contact us for a quote

Highlights: WEDG Verified case studies

Bronx Point

Bronx, New York City Residential

Preliminary + Final review

[Click here to Case Study](#)



North Waterfront Park

Wilmington, North Carolina Park

Preliminary + Final review

[Click here to Case Study](#)



Oak Point/ McInnis Cement

Bronx, New York City Industrial Maritime

Preliminary + Final review

[Click here to Case Study](#)



WEDG PROFESSIONALS COURSE AND ACCREDITATION

WEDG Professionals is a platform for participants to learn from innovators in the fields of waterfront design, planning, engineering, community development, and risk about designing for a climate resilient future beyond 2050. Since 2019, more than 220 professionals from 14 states have taken our flagship WEDG Professionals course and earned a WEDG Associate credential for proficiency in WEDG best practices and leadership in resilient waterfront design. This year, we expect to offer two live courses and an online, self-paced version of the WEDG course and exam. Please contact Sarah Dougherty at sdougherty@waterfrontalliance.org to learn more about current course offerings.

Live course content

Concepts, techniques, and lessons learned illustrated through case studies presented by multi-disciplinary experts, covering:

- Introduction to WEDG
- Site Assessment & Planning
- Responsible Siting & Coastal Risk Reduction
- Community Access & Connections
- Edge Resilience
- Natural Resources
- Innovation

Live Q&A and virtual networking offered after each section/panel.

Self-paced course content (in development)

Concepts and case studies presented credit by credit in modules providing a comprehensive overview of the standard, with deep dives into key techniques taught by multi-disciplinary experts, covering:

- Introduction to WEDG
- Site Assessment & Planning
- Responsible Siting & Coastal Risk Reduction
- Community Access & Connections
- Edge Resilience
- Natural Resources
- Innovation

Exam

Either course is a prerequisite for the exam. The same exam is administered for participants of the live and self-paced courses. The WEDG manual, provided to course participants is the basis of the exam content.

- Online
- Open book using the WEDG manual
- Advanced registration required
- A 70% passing grade required
- 50 multiple choice questions
- Exam outcome is pass/fail

WEDG Professionals pricing

	Government, nonprofit, student	Private firm
Live virtual course and exam	\$200	\$400
Self-paced virtual course and exam	\$125	\$175

Highlights: Meet WEDG Professionals

Del Bobish

Port facility manager,
New York City



“WEDG changed my way of looking at things. Without the WEDG connection and network, our partnership with the Billion Oyster Project would not have been possible.”

Sonya Gabrielson

Civil engineer,
San Francisco



“As a civil engineer, I work with water systems all day, every day, on projects like ports, parks and urban floodwall retrofits. WEDG is the first rating system that is not building-centric but specifically there to confront sea level rise and more frequent storm flooding.”

Fernando Ortiz

Community organizer,
New York City



“WEDG has resonated with the community. Whether because of gentrification, or climate change, or the vulnerability of the food market at Hunts Point, we’ve been paying close attention to our waterfronts. WEDG has guidelines that bring all this together with resilience and environmental justice.”

Visit wedg.waterfrontalliance.org for more information or to say hello.

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