

PSA: How To Navigate The Upcoming WELL AP v2 Updates | Transcript

Introduction ([00:01](#)):

Welcome to Green Building Matters. The original and most popular podcast focused on the green building movement. Your host is Charlie Cichetti, one of the most credentialed experts in the green building industry and one of the few to be honored as a LEED Fellow. Each week, Charlie welcomes a green building professional from around the globe to share their war stories, career advice, and unique insight into how sustainability is shaping the built environment. Settle in, grab a fresh cup of coffee and get ready to find out why Green Building Matters.

Charlie ([00:34](#)):

Hi everyone. Welcome to a special episode of the Green Building Matters podcast. While we normally interview a green building professional every single week, somewhere in the world. This week, I wanted to get on here and talk about the WELL AP professional credential exam. Some changes that are coming and that's what this episode is going to be about. I'm your host, Charlie Cichetti, I'm a WELL AP WELL faculty. My businesses, we really are focused on, not just the green building movement, but the healthy building movement. I'm sure that's affected a lot of you before and during the pandemic, "is this a healthy building or not on one hand?" On the other hand, how do I help everyone get back to our buildings with confidence coming out of a pandemic? Maybe you've been applying some of the pandemic response programs like WELL HSR or FitWELL Viral Response Module.

Charlie ([01:28](#)):

With that being said, let's talk about the WELL AP exam. This exam we've had out there for a number of years in WELL version one, but a lot of our projects have been using WELL version two, right LEED and WELL, these programs that we get to work with these tools, these rating systems they go through updates, they have to raise the bar. They have to tweak some of the line items, some of the credits on the LEED side and some of the features here on the WELL side, just to make sure that they are challenging enough, but projects are actually going to do these. Another reason why we have these iterations, these updates to LEED and WELL, but as the main programs update, that means they have to update the exams that we all study for of course. I passed the WELL version one, WELL AP exam, several years ago, and this public service announcement, we want to highlight to

everyone that in September here in 2021, we are going to see an update from IWBI and GBCI.

Charlie ([02:33](#)):

I remember the International WELL Building Institute is who's behind the WELL movement and they will provide the updated information to GBCI who works closely to write and rewrite exams and then administer those exams through Prometric. So those are your entities. Just one more time. The IWBI is the authority behind the WELL building standard, working closely with GBCI who certifies our projects, but also administers our credential exams and keeps up that credential maintenance your CE hours. Prometric is the third-party testing center, which if you've been thinking of taking your WELL AP, but with the pandemic, you didn't want to go into a testing center. Good news. You can take the exam virtually, or you can come into the testing center. So that is one change that happened in 2020, these LEED and WELL exams, you can take virtually and it's pretty strict.

Charlie ([03:36](#)):

You have to have a webcam and look all around your desk under your desk, make sure nothing's written down. There's a Proctor, that's watching you take the exam, but you can take it virtually. I've had some colleagues to do that and we've had a lot of customers use that option, especially internationally before the Prometric testing centers had opened back up. You can still go into the Prometric testing center in the city. Hopefully, they have one where you're at. One takeaway from our public service announcement today is you can take these exams virtually, if that is something that you would prefer to do. Next September 1st, 2021, the WELL AP exam will update to WELL version two. We've had a gap we've had to be teaching WELL version one for a long time, even while WELL, version two projects have become the main version to sign up your project for.

Charlie ([04:33](#)):

I'm happy to see that gap now closed. We will be teaching WELL version two, and your projects will be working off of WELL version two. If some of you may be listening to, this are like, "Oh man, I've been studying for the WELL exam. I didn't know this." If you want to go ahead and take your WELL AP here in July or August, 2021, stay the course, keep doing that. Let's go ahead and get your WELL AP credential while it's a 100 question, multiple choice exam. If you haven't really started yet, you've been meaning to take a WELLness credential either the WELL

AP or the FitWELL ambassador. That's another one to look into the FitWELL ambassador is a online course open book, 50 questions. We actually have some practice questions for that gbes.com.

Charlie ([05:29](#)):

If that's a credential you may even want to go get that, knock it out. Some of your projects may want to align with FitWELL, but the WELL AP is the closed book, professional credential exam. That's very recognized in industry right now. It's a great add on if you have a LEED green associate or a LEED AP over another specialty, because on the LEED side, you've covered. You're showing your employer. You're showing your clients that you have green buildings covered and on the WELL side, of course you have healthy buildings covered. I highly recommend a LEED credential and follow it up with a WELL AP, a very marketable in this green and now healthy building movement. First takeaway you can take the exam virtual or at a Prometric next September 1st, 2021. That's when the WELL AP exam will have been updated to version two, they've been rewriting the questions this year.

Charlie ([06:26](#)):

Good news our education team at green building education services, gbes.com. We've been doing this a long time. We've been helping professionals all over the world, actually since, uOctober, 2007. That's when we made the first LEED AP practice tests and flashcards courses. We really know what it takes to stay aligned with these GBCI exam changes and how to pass the test. Something we're really good at on one hand is what do you need to know to pass this exam and boost your career. On the other hand don't forget, we do a tremendous amount of continuing education. To pass this exam, the WELL AP now version two. Again, if you're listening to this, you were thinking of taking the exam soon so go ahead and start into some reading materials. Starting September 1st, 2021 onward, it will be WELL, AP version two, it'll one with the WELL version two rating system, we're going to put some links in the podcast show notes.

Charlie ([07:27](#)):

We've got a really good blog on how to pass the Willy AP exam. Some study tips there we'll be updating that right when the new exam launches, we GBS or education team have been writing WELL, Virta two practice tests and we really want to focus your studies on certain material to help save you time and help

show you. What's it going to take? What do you need to memorize to pass this new WELL AP exam? We've been working on that. We'll be launching those in August, 2021. We've got a resource here from IWBI. We're going to put this in the podcast show note link. How to get to know the new WELL AP exam. The current one is 100 questions. They throw out 15 beta questions, and then they score the rest, the new exam and you had two hours to do that.

Charlie ([08:17](#)):

The new exam they're going to give you two and a half hours. It's actually going to be 125 questions. There will still be some beta questions that are thrown out. It is going to be a little bit longer exam. We're going to see if that means it's more difficult, but what's happening is they're trying to get you more project specific questions. We all want to become a WELL project manager here. There's actually going to be an embedded amount of content, some PDFs on your computer screen that you'll click you'll reference. There may be some questions where you need to go back a document or two that they actually give you. That's new. Now, trust me, this is still a closed book exam. You got to do a lot of study in here. Some of you learn best by reading.

Charlie ([09:05](#)):

Read the WELL version two building standard. Luckily they give us that one for free and WELLcertified.com or better yet just go to gbes.com/free-resources. Then that's where we have our WELL AP material. Some of our free material that we link over to that way. You're studying up with the right version of these documents that come from the folks behind the WELL movement. Again, takeaway number three, here would be the exam is going to be a little longer starting September 1st onward, 125 questions, two and a half hours. It doesn't take you quite that long, but this is a wordy exam. It could take your most of that time. That's okay. They're going to have some new embedded content. How are they stretching it to 125 questions? One thing that's happened from WELL version one, to WELL, version two is some of our concepts are categories like air, water, nourishment, light, thermal comfort.

Charlie ([10:12](#)):

No, no that one's new. Air, water, nourishment light, as we get through, there are some concepts and categories that have stayed the same, maybe moved around some features and points within those, but then they started breaking out some

other ones like materials, sound, thermal comfort. We're starting to see more specific categories within the WELL version two buildings standard. Those new categories that now a total 11, if we add a synergies category would be air, water, nourishment, light movement, thermal comfort, sound, materials, mind community. Again, while there might be a couple of questions about innovation points on our exams, we throw in a category and we do this on our practice tests for synergies. We've got 11 total categories, if you will. They pull some questions from each of those. We want to make sure we're focused on the fact that there's three different types of questions.

Charlie ([11:18](#)):

Some are very rapid recall questions. Some are more analysis questions. We could even get into application questions. There's three types of questions, recall application and analysis. The analysis ones are typically more wordy. They might have a paragraph or a table. In this case on the new WELL AP or reference some of the material, they're going to give us off to the side and we have to kind of problem solve. We have to be that kind of WELL project manager, if you will. Recall, application and analysis. I've been doing this a long time and these changes happen. While this one maybe is a larger exam update because every year the folks behind the LEED and WELL exams reserved the right to slightly tweak the exams. The LEED exams this year, we've been told with our partners there at the authority we'll not have changes or major changes coming out of COVID, but the WELL exam was overdue for an update.

Charlie ([12:20](#)):

They were going to update it last summer, 2020 they've waited. It's gonna update here. One is a more major update, but if you've been studying WELL, or you've been working on WELL projects, that material, a lot of it's going to remain. It's not like they started from scratch. They've just moved some features around adjusted the points, adjusted the preconditions, the things we have to do in order to go for a WELL building certification. If you've already been kind of reading up on it, you're a little familiar with, WELL, you have a headstart. WELL, version two, though, if you're going to take this exam after September 1st, 2021, that is the version you need to study off of. We've got you covered here@gbes.com. Make sure you check out our blog about how to pass the WELL AP exam, our free resources page, and no matter what, read through the WELL building standard

PDF and take lots and lots of our practice they're going to be just like the real exam.

Charlie ([13:23](#)):

We'll continue to fine tune those. Finally, to get all that additional study material for courses and flashcards and more. You're probably just going to want to jump into our unlimited subscription. We call that GBEs unlimited because once you pass this exam, you have to keep up your continuing education. We do have WELL specific continuing education. Some of you listening probably have a LEED credential and a WELL credential. If you're one of our annual subscribers to GBS unlimited, you get all of that. It's included no additional costs. It just puts your green building and now healthy building career on autopilot. In summary, the WELL AP exam is updating September 1st, 2021. We here at GBEs, our education company we have you covered. If you've been reading up on it, keep reading up on this material, but let's just make sure you were studying off of the accurate, the most updated WELL version two study tools and our practice tasks. Now let's go get that additional professional credential. Good luck.

Charlie ([14:27](#)):

I just want to say thank you to our loyal listeners. We actually are celebrating over one year here on the Green Building Matters Podcast. Me and the entire team were stoked and just so glad to continue to listen every Wednesday morning to a new interview with the green building professional here in this industry, or just some pro tips that we want to make sure that you are getting straight from us straight to you. Thank you for listening to this episode of the Green Building Matters Podcast at gbes.com. Our mission is to advance the green building movement through best in class education and encouragement. Remember, you can go to gbes.com/podcast for any notes and links that we mentioned in today's episode. And you can actually see the other episodes that have already been recorded with our amazing, yes. Please tell your friends about this podcast, tell your colleagues, and if you really enjoyed it, leave a positive review on iTunes. Thank you so much. And we'll see ya next week.