The construction industry contributes to 40% of the world's pollution.

LEED is a green building certification program used to encourage sustainability in the industry, but it has flaws that prevent widespread use.

Therefore, more research on this topic needs to be done and the barriers currently in place for using LEED should be broken down.

Research Question: How can we make LEED certifications more accessible to builders?

Findings

- Figure 2. from World Green Building Trends shows that the top barriers to achieving a LEED certification are upfront cost, documentation effort, and time.

- Green buildings will be more widely used if money or incentives can be given to builders and owners to support the upfront cost.

- The documentation process should be streamlined for easy access by all parties in the process.

- Expedited permitting processes help get projects started and promote green building.

- Environmental regulations and building codes are one way to guarantee the use of green building certifications.

Internship & Methods

- I interned with Mortenson Construction completing daily construction management tasks and learned the process of LEED documentation.

- The LEED credit categories shown in Figure 1. are the basis of each LEED project. LEED documentation requires specific information for each category, I coordinated the acquisition of this information.

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