You may have heard of the United States Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. All new buildings and major renovations at the University of Maryland undergo the process. LEED certification is a way for organizations such as UMD to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable design and construction methods.

Green Globes is another nationally recognized certification program. Administered by the Green Building Institute (GBI), it is marketed as an alternative to LEED. The GBI states, “Green Globes is a web-based program for green building guidance and certification that includes an onsite assessment by a third party. Backed by excellent customer support, Green Globes offers a streamlined and affordable alternative to LEED as a way to advance the overall environmental performance and sustainability of commercial buildings.”

The Green Globes program is gaining recognition among states and federal government entities, and was recently recognized by the GSA as an option for green building for the U.S. Federal Government. Organizations who pass the Green Globes test earn from one to four Green Globes.

The University of Maryland Department of Capital Projects is conducting a pilot project to test the process of Green Globe certification for new construction, and compare and contrast it to the LEED certification process. Green Globes would not take the place of LEED but would serve as additional evidence of the University’s commitment to sustainable design and construction methods.

For the pilot project, CAP followed both LEED and Green Globes certification processes for the recently completed Wye Oak Building. The project has earned three Green Globes; LEED certification is pending. Sustainable features of the building include energy savings, water savings, daylighting, sustainable landscaping and site re-use.

CAP’s Green Globes professional is Martha Shrader. To earn her certificate, Martha successfully completed training and passed a test.