

## How Carpet Contributes to LEED

The LEED Rating System, developed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), is the definitive standard for what constitutes a “green building”. It provides guidelines for designing and building environmentally responsible structures.

As one component among a list of building materials, a sustainable carpet system can contribute toward the design and certification of a LEED building. Meeting the minimum credit requirements often requires the LEED team to specify a multitude of environmentally responsible products, including, but not limited to carpet. It is important for the LEED team to remember that carpet is just one component among a very long list that makes up a green building.

No product may be accurately called “LEED CERTIFIED”. There is no product certification program sanctioned by LEED. The very best we can do as carpet manufacturers is to point out the categories where our products are additive to the pursuit of a LEED point.

LEED CATEGORY	LEED Credit Requirement
MATERIALS & RESOURCES	<b>Credit 1.3:</b> <b>Building Reuse</b> Maintain 100% of existing buildings structure and shell AND at least 50% of non-shell areas (interior walls, doors, floor coverings and ceiling systems).
	<b>Credit 2.1:</b> <b>Construction Waste Management</b> Recycle and/or salvage at least 50% by weight of construction, demolition, and land clearing waste.
	<b>Credit 4.1:</b> <b>Recycled Content</b> Use materials with recycled content such that the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the post-industrial content constitutes at least 5% of the total value of the materials in the project.
	<b>Credit 4.2:</b> <b>Recycled Content</b> Use materials with recycled content such that the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the post-industrial content constitutes at least 10% of the total value of the materials in the project.
	<b>Credit 5: Local/ Regional Materials:</b> Specify a minimum 20% of building materials (by cost) manufactured (final assembly) regionally within a radius of 500 miles.
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	<b>Credit 4:</b> <b>Low Emitting Materials</b> <b>4.1</b> Adhesives must meet or exceed the VOC limits of South Coast Air Quality Mgmt District Rule #1168, AND all sealants used as a filler must meet or exceed Bay Area Air Quality Mgmt District Reg. 8, Rule 51.
	<b>4.3*</b> Carpet systems must meet or exceed the Carpet and Rug institute Green Label Indoor Air Quality Test program. <b>This is the only category where carpet, independent of all other building materials, offers a credit point.</b>
INNOVATION & DESIGN	Intended to provide projects the opportunity to be awarded up to 4 additional credit points for exceptional performance above LEED requirements and/or innovative design not specifically addressed by the LEED Rating System.  One point per <i>unique</i> innovation/ design demonstrated.