LEED Pilot Credit Library

Pilot Credit 53: Responsible Sourcing of Raw Materials

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Applicable Rating Systems

This credit is available for pilot testing by the following LEED project types:

BD&C

- New Construction
- Core & Shell
- Schools
- Retail
- Data Centers
- Warehouses & Distribution Centers
- Hospitality
- Healthcare

ID&C

- Commercial Interiors
- Retail
- Hospitality

Intent

To protect ecosystems, respect cultural and community values, and improve land use through responsible extraction of raw materials used for building products and materials.

Requirements

NC, CS, Schools, Retail NC, Data Centers, Warehouse & Distribution Centers, Hospitality NC, Healthcare

Use permanently installed new building products and materials from manufacturers whose raw materials meet the applicable requirements below. Points are awarded as follows:

% by Cost	Points
10%	1
20% and 3 material types	Not available for pilot

Exclude products and materials containing recycled content, salvaged, reused, or refurbished materials from calculation. For composite materials and assemblies where a fraction of the product of material meets the requirements, only that fraction, based on weight, contributes toward the compliant value.

Materials meeting applicable criteria below plus extracted and manufactured domestically are valued at 1.5 times the material cost, or regionally (within the state, province, or territory) at twice the material cost. Products and materials extracted and manufactured locally (within 50 miles or 80 km), are valued at three times the material cost. If project is located in the United States or Canada, products and materials meeting local criteria automatically qualify for this credit.

Mined or Quarried Materials

For raw materials that are mined or quarried using practices covered in the Framework for Responsible Mining manufacturers and their raw material suppliers each sign a commitment letter by the owner of their company, stating the following:

- Reviewed and understood the Framework for Responsible Mining
- Publicly declared commitment to advancing responsible mining

Bio Based Materials

Raw materials must be harvested in a legal manner as defined by the exporting and receiving country. Bio based products are those that meet ASTM Test Method D6866. Hide products such as leather and other animal skin material are excluded from contributing towards credit.

- New wood[1] products must be certified by Forest Stewardship Council, or better.
- Other bio-based products must meet the Sustainable Agriculture Network's Sustainable Agriculture Standard

Other Extracted Materials

For raw materials that do not have a compliance path listed above, extraction and manufacture must meet all applicable laws, including human rights laws, for the exporting and receiving country. Product manufacturers must also make the following publically available:

- Commitment to long-term ecologically responsible land use
- Reduction of environmental impact of extraction and/or manufacturing processes
- Economic and social support of adjacent communities
- Commitment to meeting applicable standards or programs voluntarily that address responsible sourcing criteria
- Labor practices

[1] Wood materials include monocot and dicot plants.

- Governance structure

CI, Retail CI, Hospitality CI

Meet the requirements of the credit above; however, furniture and furnishings that are within project's scope of work must be included in credit calculations.

Credit Submittals

General:

1. Register for Pilot Credit(s) here.
2. Register a username at LEEDuser.com, and participate in online forum
3. Submit feedback survey; supply PDF of your survey/confirmation of completion with credit documentation

Credit Specific:

Submit a list of products purchased contributing toward credit and their corresponding raw material. List the cost and number of items purchased per contributing products and calculate the weighted value according to total weight of materials purchased. Provide documentation showing adherence to applicable disclosure requirements.

Additional Questions

- The raw material sourcing disclosure reporting requirements does not specify a third party. However it is anticipated that in the near future Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) will be the only organization to support these reporting requirements. Were you able to purchase from manufacturers who source from raw material companies reporting to GRI? Were there other organizations meeting the reporting criteria? What were major challenges in finding compliant materials?
- What manufacturers where you able to find utilizing mined and quarried materials sourcing companies utilizing the Framework for Responsible Mining? Who are the early adopters?

Background Information

While LCA is a powerful analytical tool, the information driving LCA based decisions often fails to adequately address material impacts associated with human health and ecosystem disruption. To address LCAs short comings, the MR section proposes requirements for responsible material sourcing and avoidance of harmful chemicals in building products. This credit expands on existing credits that deal with material origins (rapidly renewable, certified wood, materials reuse) and significantly increases the scope around which credit for responsible sourcing activities will be rewarded. In addition to continuing to support the expansion of responsible forest management activities, the new responsible sourcing credit encourages the expansion of responsible sourcing activity in most industries providing raw materials to the buildings industry.

Changes

Changes as a result of 3rd Public Comment (3/1/2012):

- Raw material disclosure requirement was rolled into responsible extraction requirements.
- Bio-based redefined to define other materials besides wood.
- Labor practices and governance structure added to required publically available list for Other Extracted Materials.
- Weightings added to materials sourced domestically, regionally and locally.
- Recycled content and salvaged materials are not to be included in calculation.
- FSC – Pure requirement replaced with FSC Certified