



LEED Pilot Credit Library

Pilot Credit 43: Certified Products

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Applicable Rating Systems

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

- New Construction
- Core and Shell
- Schools
- New Construction for Retail
- Commercial Interiors
- Commercial Interiors for Retail
- Hospitality
- Healthcare

Intent

To increase the use of products and materials with life cycles, ingredients, and attributes understood and optimized to improve overall environmental, economic and social performance.

Requirements

Specify and install non-structural products and materials with attributes described below for a weighted value of at least 10% of the total value of all non-structural materials and products. ISO Type I and III Declarations qualify for this credit.

Compliant certifications are those consistent with the draft [LEED Standard for Standards](#)¹.

Wood products purchased for temporary use on the project (e.g. formwork, bracing, scaffolding, sidewalk protection, and guardrails) should not be included in credit calculations for the purposes of this pilot credit.

Certification Pathway:

A. **Single attribute certification** -Verification of a single attribute through 3rd party

¹ The Standard for Standards document is planned to be a tool for decision making in evaluation of certifications, labels, and standards included in LEED. While the minimum criteria is being developed a list of [pre-approved certifications](#) is provided in the Appendix.



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certification.

- B. **Type I Environmental Label/Certification** – Voluntary, multi-attribute based third party certification to a standard or labeling program that has been developed with ISO 14024:1999 and life cycle considerations as its basis and providing an indication of overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category.
- C. **Type I Environmental Label based on EPD** – Voluntary, multi-attribute based third party certification to a standard or labeling program that has been developed with ISO 14024:1999 as its basis and has been developed referencing ISO 14025:2006 compliant Environmental Product Declarations as the source of the life cycle considerations as well as providing indication of overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category.

EPD Pathway²:

- A. **Self-declared LCA** - Publically available Life Cycle Analysis report following ISO 14044 requirements including an internal or external peer review report or statement.
- B. **Third-party Certified Type III EPD: Industry Wide** – An ISO 14025 voluntary, third party reviewed LCA-based Environmental Product Declaration in conformance with a Product Category Rule document and program operator for industry wide declarations of a product category.
- C. **Third-party Certified Type III EPD: Product Specific** – An ISO 14025 voluntary, third party reviewed LCA-based Environmental Product Declaration based on a Product Category Rule document and program operator for specific products.

The product content that complies with one or more of the attributes described above contribute to credit achievement as follows:

| Certification Pathway | Weight | EPD Pathway | Weight |
|------------------------------------|--------|--|--------|
| Single Attribute Certification | 50% | Self-Declared LCA | 50% |
| Type I Environmental Label | 100% | Third Party Certified Type III EPD: Industry Wide | 100% |
| Type I label based on Type III EPD | 200% | Third Party Certified Type III EPD: Product Specific | 200% |

² Those performing LCA evaluations are to use USLCI database for background when available. System boundaries are assumed to be at least cradle-to-gate. Minimum environmental attributes include global warming, ozone depletion, acidification, eutrophication, photochemical ozone creation, depletion of abiotic resource elements, depletion of abiotic resource fossil fuels and primary energy, following the prEN15804:2010 definitions.



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It is possible to combine the multipliers from each pathway; however multipliers are not additive within a pathway. For example, if a product had a total cost of \$100 and had a label applicable to Certification Pathway A “Single Attribute Certification” then 50% of the cost goes toward the weighted value, the weighted value would be \$50. If that same \$100 product also had and a label applicable to EDP Pathway B “Third Party Certified Type III EDP: Industry Wide” then 100% of the cost contributes toward the weighted value, the weighted value would be \$100, the resulting total weighted value of the product is \$150. However, two weights within the same pathway cannot be added together, for example Certification Pathway A (50% weight) and B (100% weight) are not eligible to be combined.

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:

Provide a list of products purchased contributing toward credit and indicate the applicable label/certification. List the cost and number of items purchased per product and calculate the weighted value according to the table above.

Additional Questions

- As a LEED project team, how difficult was it to locate the applicable pathway level of certifications/labels receiving credit?
- How were you able to obtain certification information for products? How difficult was it?
- What were the major barriers to achieving credit performance? Do you think the threshold is reasonable?
- How was the total materials cost for non-structural products found? Is it a calculation that is tracked as part of regular construction process or was the number calculated only for the purposes of LEED?
- What certifications/labels would you like USGBC to consider for inclusion in this pilot credit?

Background Information

This credit is meant to apply the same level of consideration and evaluation of third party certifications and labels available in the Green Building Sector to all products and materials. The purpose is to communicate the difference between their levels of sophisti-



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ation in regard to more comprehensive perspectives of sustainability. We want LEED buildings to have more products that we know more about, and fewer products that we don't know very much about. The credit rewards greater transparency and knowledge about product life-cycles. The Certified Products Pilot Credit is a comprehensive approach to valuing certifications according to depth, transparency, and rigor. The credit serves to communicate the present and future certifications that will be recognized in LEED.

Appendix

Definitions:

- **Environmental Label:** *environmental declaration claim* which indicates the environmental aspects of a *product* or *service* (ISO 14020:2000)
- **Environmental Claim** statement, symbol or graphic that indicates an environmental aspect of a product, a component or packaging (ISO 14021:1999)
- **Type I Environmental Label Program** voluntary, multi-criteria based third party program that awards a license which authorizes the use of environmental labels on products indicating overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category based on life cycle considerations. (ISO 14024:1999)
- **Type II** – voluntary, self declared environmental claim that is made without independent third-party certification, by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers and anybody else likely to benefit from such a claim (ISO 14021:2001)
- **Type III Environmental Declaration** *environmental declaration* providing quantified environmental data using predetermined parameters and, where relevant, additional environmental information (ISO 14025:2006) Type III declarations are voluntary, third party reviewed EPD based on a PCR document and program operator and are LCA based

Calculation Examples:

Total nonstructural cost of materials for the project: \$10,000,000

10% threshold requirement: \$1,000,000

| Name | Total Product Cost | Certification Declarations | | | LCA Based Declarations | | | Weighted Value |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | A (50%) | B (100%) | C (200%) | A (50%) | B (100%) | C (200%) | |
| Product A: | \$300,000 | X | | | | | | \$150,000 |
| Product B | \$400,000 | | X | | | | | \$400,000 |
| Product C | \$200,000 | | X | | | | X | \$600,000 |
| TOTAL | \$900,000 | | | | | | | \$1,150,000.00 |

Credit threshold: $\frac{\$1,150,000}{\$10,000,000}$ Total Weighted Value of nonstructural materials = **11.5%**

Pre-Approved Certifications and Labels

The Standard for Standards document is planned to be a tool for decision making in evaluation of certifications, labels, and standards included in LEED. While the minimum criteria are being developed a list of pre-approved certifications is provided in the Appen-



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dix. If a certification does not appear on this list but should be considered for the Certified Products Pilot Credit please e-mail the suggestion to pilot@usgbc.org.

| Certification/Label Name | Certification Declarations | | | LCA Based Declarations | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------|---|---|
| | A | B | C | A | B | C |
| Recovered/Reused Material | X | | | | | |
| Recycled Content | X | | | | | |
| Rapidly Renewable | X | | | | | |
| Regional | X | | | | | |
| Bio-Based | X | | | | | |
| Forest Stewardship Council | X | | | | | |
| Sustainable Forestry Initiative | X | | | | | |
| American Tree Farm | X | | | | | |
| PEFC | X | | | | | |
| CSA | X | | | | | |
| Energy Star | X | | | | | |
| NSF 140-Sustainability Assessment for Carpet | | X | | | | |
| NSF 332- Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings | | X | | | | |
| BIFMA e3/Level/Business and Institutional Furniture Sustainability Standard | | X | | | | |
| UL ISR 100 Gypsum Board | | X | | | | |
| UL ISR 102 Commercial Swinging Slab Doors | | X | | | | |
| CCD 001-Heating and Cooling Systems | | X | | | | |
| CCD 008-Indirect-Fired Hot Water Storage | | X | | | | |
| CCD 012-Gas-Fired Hot Water Boilers | | X | | | | |
| CCD 015- Energy Efficient Harmonic Cancellation Transformers | | X | | | | |
| CCD 016-Insulation Products | | X | | | | |
| CCD 020 – Gypsum | | X | | | | |
| CCD 029 – Water Conserving Products | | X | | | | |
| CCD 032-Demountable Partitions (office) | | X | | | | |
| CCD 033-Office Furniture & Panel Systems | | X | | | | |
| CCD 045-Sealants and Caulking Compounds | | X | | | | |
| CCD 046-Adhesives | | X | | | | |
| CCD 047-Surface Coatings – Architectural | | X | | | | |
| CCD 048-Surface Coatings Recycled Water | | X | | | | |



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|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| CCD 152-Flooring Products | | X | | | | |
| CCD 167-Mosaic Tiles | | X | | | | |
| GS-05 Compact Fluorescent Lamps | | X | | | | |
| GS-11 Paints and Coatings | | X | | | | |
| GS-13 Windows | | X | | | | |
| GS-14 Windows Films | | X | | | | |
| GS-31 Electric Chillers | | X | | | | |
| GS-36 Adhesives for Commercial Use | | X | | | | |
| GS-43 Recycled Content Latex Paints | | X | | | | |
| GS-47 Stains and Finishes | | X | | | | |
| Cradle to Cradle | | X | | | | |
| SMaRT | | X | | | | |
| Peer Reviewed LCA | | | | X | | |
| UL EPDs | | | | | X | X |
| | | | | | | |