



Understanding the Role of Nydree Flooring Products in the LEED Process

LEED® — Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

Introduction

For organizations concerned about increasing the value and efficiency of their buildings, the most sought-after award is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification, granted by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. The “Family of LEED” includes:

- LEED-NC: New Commercial Construction and Major Renovation Projects
- LEED-EB: Existing Building Operations
- LEED-CI: Commercial Interiors Projects
- LEED-CS: Core and Shell Projects
- LEED-H: Homes
- LEED-ND: Neighborhood Development

There are also LEED Programs for [Schools](#) and [Retail](#), and [Guidelines for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects](#).

LEED-NC, LEED-CI and LEED-H are the rating systems where Nydree Flooring products can contribute to earning LEED points. Although the USGBC does not certify, promote or endorse products of individual companies, products do play a role and can help projects with Credit achievement. Please note that products do not, in and of themselves, earn project points — it’s the building itself that receives points and subsequent certification.

LEED certification has concrete and sustainable benefits:

- Enhanced occupant well-being and comfort
- Reduced operating costs
- Reduced environmental impact
- Increased building valuation and return on investment
- Marketing advantage
- Reduced absenteeism and employee turnover
- Increased retail sales

Based on a mid-decade analysis, the aggregate total return of publicly held companies affiliated with the USGBC outperformed the Dow Jones Industrial Average by over 18 percent from 2000 to 2004. This may indicate well-managed, progressive companies are looking to build and operate green as an opportunity to differentiate themselves as leaders in the marketplace.

LEED Certification

LEED rating systems are organized into six broad topic areas:

- **Sustainable Sites**
Purpose: to avoid development of inappropriate sites and reduce the environmental impact of site location.
- **Water Efficiency**
Purpose: to design buildings which minimize the use of potable water and maximize overall water efficiency.
- **Energy & Atmosphere**
Purpose: to utilize energy-efficient design, CFC-free refrigerants and renewable green energy.
- **Materials & Resources**
Purpose: to reduce waste generation, extend the use of existing building materials and conserve resources.
- **Indoor Environmental Quality**
Purpose: to establish indoor air quality performance measures.
- **Innovation & Design Process**
Purpose: to provide recognition of innovative designs or systems that lead to exceptional building performance above the existing guidelines.

Each of the above categories house a number of Credits relevant to that topic area. For example, the Energy and Atmosphere topic area has separate Credits for achieving energy savings and for generating on-site renewable energy. Each Credit offers an opportunity for earning points: some Credits offer just one point, and others offer two or more for achieving higher levels of performance in the area the Credit covers.

LEED projects that earn a sufficient number of points can then be awarded one of four certification levels: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Designers can pick and choose the Credits most appropriate to their project to achieve a rating.

Many developers, particularly those working on federal/state government and leading-edge private sector buildings, are requiring that building designs meet LEED Silver performance. Given that conventional new buildings would likely score only a few LEED points, achievement of any LEED level represents a significant reduction in building environmental impact and an improvement of indoor environment.

Nydree Flooring and LEED

Following are the LEED-NC Credits for which Nydree Flooring products can help earn points:

Materials & Resources Section

Credit 4.1 – 10% Recycled Content: Credit is given for the use of products that are manufactured using recycled materials; recycled materials must constitute at least 10% of the project's total material value (calculated by taking the total of post-consumer materials plus half of pre-consumer materials and dividing it by the total materials cost). The total materials cost excludes mechanical, electrical and plumbing components and specialty items such as elevators.

Nydree Flooring's Reclaimed products are made up of 23% reclaimed face veneer, a post-consumer component.

Credit 4.2 – 20% Recycled Content: A point in addition to Credit 4.1; the total of all materials must constitute at least 20% using the same calculation.

Please see Credit 4.1 above.

Credit 5 – Regional Materials: Credit is given for the use of building materials and products that are extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured within 500 miles of the project site.

Nydree Flooring's manufacturing facility is located in Karthaus, Pennsylvania in the west-central portion of the state. A 500-mile radius of Karthaus encompasses a wide swath of one of the United States most populous regions.

Credit 6 – Rapidly Renewable Materials: A point is awarded for utilizing rapidly renewable materials (made from plants that are typically harvested within a ten-year cycle or shorter). In order to receive this Credit, the products must equal 2.5% of the total value of all project building materials.

Bamboo, an outstanding rapidly renewable resource, is offered by Nydree Flooring (bamboo component = 23%).

Credit 7 – Certified Wood: Incentives for the use of wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the international non-profit association whose members work in partnership to improve forest management practices worldwide.

Nydree Flooring is proud to be a certified chain-of-custody member of the FSC (chain-of-custody number SW-COC-1039). Customers need to request FSC certified wood on all documentation pertaining to Nydree Flooring purchases in order to protect their eligibility for this Credit.

Indoor Environmental Quality Section

Credit 4.1 – Low-Emitting Materials-Adhesives & Sealants: All adhesives and sealants need to comply with low VOC content limits.

UP-28™, the recommended adhesive for all Nydree Flooring products, contains a negligible level of VOC's (< 100 g/L, the certification limit).

Credit 4.4 – Low-Emitting Materials-Composite Wood & Agrifiber Products: Reward for using wood products with no added urea-formaldehyde resins.

No additional urea-formaldehyde resins are used in the manufacture of Nydree Flooring's Oak, Maple, Pine, Walnut, Ash, Hickory or Cherry products, or subcomponents thereof.

All information included in this document is communicated solely as interpreted by Nydree Flooring and in no way attempts to represent the opinion of the United States Green Building Council. Nydree Flooring strongly recommends that a LEED Accredited Professional be involved at the beginning with project conception, as well as in all aspects of the building and certification processes.

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