

Sustainability Brief: U.S. Green Building Council's LEED™ Green Building Rating System

A system for designing, constructing and certifying green buildings.

"LEED is a cutting edge system for designing, constructing and certifying the world's best buildings. Developed by the USGBC, LEED is a comprehensive system of building rating and certification that offers:

- Well-founded, scientific standards
- Up-to-date green building training
- A professional accreditation program
- Knowledgeable technical support
- Prime educational and Internet resources."

LEED focuses on a number of design and construction categories aimed at reducing the environmental footprint and increasing the well-being of building occupants. A building may be certified as:

LEED Certified	26 - 32 points
LEED Silver	33 - 38 points
LEED Gold	39 - 51 points
LEED Platinum	52+ points.

The standards are defined such that a building may become LEED Certified by using integrated building design with little or no additional first cost, while LEED Platinum may be attained by using the most advanced design and construction initiatives. The following categories are available for attaining LEED points:

Categories	Points Available
1. Sustainable Sites	14
2. Water Efficiency	5
3. Energy and Atmosphere	17
4. Materials and Resources	13
5. Indoor Environmental Quality	15
6. LEED Innovation Credits	<u>5</u>
Total Points Available	69

Interface Products and Services

The use of Interface products and services will not *directly* result in any LEED points other than for LEED 2.1 IEQ Credit 4.3, but may be used in conjunction with other qualified building materials to help meet other LEED criteria. For example, all Interface products with GlasBac® RE backing provide high recycled content value, but must be aggregated with other recycled content materials such as steel,

ceiling tiles, insulation, etc. to represent more than 25% of the total material cost of the project.

Suggestions for the use of Interface products and services follow: (listed by LEED Section)

Section 4: Materials and Resources

Credit 2: Construction Waste Management

Though a small portion of the total requirement for this credit, Interface's Re:Source Americas can develop examples of construction waste management plans to appropriately minimize and manage carpet installation waste.

Credit 4.1: Recycled Content: 5%

This criterion provides one point for projects in which the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the post-industrial content constitutes at least 5% of the total value of ALL materials used in the project. Carpet alone does NOT qualify for a point.

Credit 4.2: Recycled Content: 10%

This criterion provides one additional point (beyond LEED Materials and Resources Credit 4.1) for projects in which the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the post-industrial content constitutes at least 10% of the total value of ALL materials used in the project. Carpet alone does NOT qualify for a point.

Credit 5: Local/Regional Materials

Credits are available if 20% of the building materials are made within a 500-mile radius of the building project. Please refer to regional maps for projects containing modular carpet products in the Southeast (LaGrange, Georgia) and Northeast (Belleville, Ontario, Canada) and access flooring products in the Northeast (Grand Rapids, MI).

Section 5: Indoor Environmental Quality

Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials - Adhesives

All Re:Source Technologies traditional and spray adhesives for grid or full spread installations meet the VOC requirements for this credit, but this credit pertains to ALL of the adhesives used in the building – not just the carpet adhesives.

Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials - Carpet

All Interface Flooring Systems products qualify for one point under this criterion.

Credit 7: Thermal Comfort

InterfaceAR underfloor air distribution systems may help meet the criterion for this credit, but those systems must be combined with all of the other elements mentioned in the credit.

Section 6: LEED Innovation Credits

Though a highly visible and symbolic component of a Green building, carpet by itself is not considered a significant enough component in the total building to qualify for this credit.

Project Considerations

Since there are many ways that Interface products and services may be used to help attain LEED points, it is important to discuss your strategies and targeted LEED level (Certified, Silver, etc.) with your local Interface Flooring Systems representative. By understanding your strategy, we can better match our offering with your needs.

US Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is the building industry's only balanced, nonprofit, consensus coalition promoting the understanding, development and accelerated implementation of Green Building policies, programs, technologies, standards and design practices. Interface is a Charter Member of this organization, and Jim Hartzfeld of Interface currently serves as Chairman of the Board for the USGBC. For more information about the USGBC, please refer to www.usgbc.org, or forward questions to Jim.Hartzfeld@us.interfaceinc.com. Or, to learn more about Interface contact your local Account Executive, or visit us on the web at www.interfaceflooring.com.