

LEED

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (**LEED**) Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (**USGBC**), provides a list of standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

LEED was created to accomplish the following:

- Define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement
- Promote integrated, whole-building design practices
- Recognize environmental leadership in the building industry
- Stimulate green competition
- Raise consumer awareness of green building benefits
- Transform the building market

Green Building Council members, representing every sector of the building industry, developed and continue to refine **LEED**. The rating system addresses six major areas:

- Sustainable Sites (14 possible points toward certification)
- Water Efficiency (5)
- Energy and Atmosphere (17)
- Materials and Resources (13) (applicable to wool carpet – 1pt given)
- Indoor Environmental Quality (15) (applicable to wool carpet – 1 pt given)
- Innovation and Design Process (4, plus 1 for having a LEED – accredited professional on the design team)

As of this writing, Godfrey Hirst wool carpet will earn one (1) point under the Materials and Resources criteria.

Godfrey Hirst is in the process of having carpets tested to meet the Indoor Environmental Quality criteria, which will allow for another one(1) point.

The total maximum points that wool carpet can receive is two (2) points.

Certification:

Different **LEED** versions have slightly varied scoring systems; the system allows for up to 69 points toward certification:

Certified: 26 to 32 points

Silver: 33 to 38 points

Gold: 39 to 51 points

Platinum: 52 to 69 points

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LEED certification is obtained after submitting an application documenting compliance with the requirements of the rating system. Certification is granted solely by the Green Building Council responsible for issuing the **LEED** system used on the project.

LEED is fast becoming a market advantage and in some cases a market requirement. Benefits include:

- Life-cycle building and energy cost savings
- Reduced operating costs of buildings and landscapes
- Higher property values
- Healthier, more productive occupants
- Public relations and marketing advantages for green developers and owners
- Extensive free press coverage
- Media generates positive public image of environmental responsibility

The Economic Benefits:

Due to **LEED** being a relatively new concept and each project has unique circumstances, it can be hard to get a clear-cut dollar figure of costs and savings

A **LEED** Certified building will cost more than a similar non-**LEED** Certified building, but the exact cost is unique to each project.

Some buildings will achieve **LEED** Certification with little or no cost, while others will require more cost.

The goal is to get building industry professionals and others to consider the feasibility of **LEED** and green building features, as during such process they may find that based on incentive programs and other benefits, such efforts are worth the extra cost.

LEED's importance in the marketplace can be put into one simple economic term – demand – all segments of the real estate market (commercial and residential) are jumping on the **LEED** bandwagon.

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HOW LEED'S WORKS FOR WOOL CARPET

There are two areas in which wool carpet is applicable in the rating system:

Materials and Resources:

MR Credit 6:

Rapidly Renewable Materials

The credit potential to earn is (1) point

Intent: Reduce the use and depletion of finite raw materials and long-cycle renewable materials by replacing them with rapidly renewable materials.

Requirements: Use rapidly renewable building materials and products (made from plants that are typically harvested within a ten year cycle or shorter) for 2.5% of the total value of all building materials and products used in the project, based on cost.

Potential Technologies & Strategies: Establish a project goal for rapidly renewable materials and identify products and suppliers that can support achievement for this goal. Consider materials such as bamboo, wool, cotton insulation, agrifiber, linoleum, wheat-board, strawboard and cork. During construction, ensure that the specified renewable materials are installed.

Indoor Environmental Quality:

EQ Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials: Carpet Systems

The credit potential to earn is (1) point

Intent: Reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well-being of installers and occupants.

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