

Possible Credits for FSC Wood Usage USGBC's LEED for Homes Pilot Program

The current project guidelines offer several opportunities for obtaining credit for FSC construction products. FSC-certified wood can directly contribute to four of the 30 points required for LEED-H certification and indirectly to three points for sourcing local building materials. Additional commitments (and paperwork) can lead to a possible eighth point for innovation within the program, which could include extensive use of FSC products beyond those specifically outlined.

LEED-H Measurement

LEED-H Performance Level	Minimum Points Required
Certified	30 of 108
Silver	50 of 108
Gold	70 of 108
Platinum	90 of 108

LEED-H Credits that Apply to FSC Wood Use

Area	Credit	FSC credit	comments
MR5.1 Environmentally Preferable Products	No credit, mandatory compliance	If tropical hardwoods are used they MUST be FSC	FSC mandatory IF tropical hardwood used
MR5.2 Environmentally Preferable Products	Up to 4 possible points	10 product categories apply to FSC, each worth 0.5 points; additional product categories for other non-wood materials also worth 0.5 points	This category only recognizes FSC for wood uses. Other environmentally preferable products can also gain points
MR3 Local Sources	Up to 3 possible points	not FSC-specific, but certified materials do apply and can contribute to these points	Difficult to calculate
ID1.1-4 Innovative Design (4 points)	Up to 4 possible points, if allowed only 1 point is likely to be assigned for FSC use	Potential extra points for large amounts of FSC wood use, need to apply and justify	These points are typically long shots

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MR5.1

Environmentally Preferable Products (mandatory) Tropical hardwoods, if used, must be FSC certified.

Intent

Encourage the use of environmentally preferable products (EPPs).

Requirement

Tropical hardwoods, if used, must be certified in accordance with the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Result

Disqualification of the house from the LEED-H Pilot for the use of tropical hardwoods not certified by FSC.

MR5.2

Environmentally Preferable Products (4 points) Select environmentally preferable products from list, includes wood products.

Intent

Encourage the use of environmentally preferable products (EPPs).

Requirement

Select environmentally preferable products. Choose from among those listed in *GreenSpec* or the following:

Roof Framing, FSC certified (0.5 points)
Floor Framing, FSC certified (0.5 points)
Flooring, half area of house FSC certified (0.5 points)
Flooring, full area of house FSC certified (additional 0.5 points)
Exterior Wall Framing, FSC certified (0.5 points)

Interior Wall Framing (FSC certified (0.5 points)
Roof+Floor+Wall Sheathing, FSC certified (0.5 points)
Exterior Wall Siding, FSC certified (0.5 points)
Doors and Windows, FSC certified (0.5 points)
Cabinets and Trim, FSC certified (0.5 points)

Other eligible products include recycled materials; low VOC paints, cabinets, countertops, carpet and insulation; cement replacement, wallboard, insulation and roofing.

Result

If all wood products listed above are FSC certified, it is possible to earn all four available points from FSC-certified wood (opportunity to earn five for FSC-certified wood products, capped at maximum of four points). *GreenSpec* is a listing of green building products that can be used in LEED construction projects. By the fact that a product is FSC-certified, it is automatically eligible for listing in *GreenSpec*.

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MR3

Local Sources (3 possible points)

Materials must be extracted/manufactured/produced within 500 miles. This credit applies to wood and/or all other product categories used in home construction.

Intent

Promote use of materials that are extracted, processed, and manufactured within the region, thereby supporting the use of indigenous resources, reducing the environmental impacts resulting from transportation, and increasing awareness of the environmental impacts of resource use and extraction.

Requirement

Use building materials or products that have been extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured, within 500 miles of the home. Ninety percent of the component must meet the source requirements in order to earn each 0.5 point.

Eligible components include:

Doors (0.5 points)

Flooring (0.5 points)

Exterior Wall Framing (0.5 points)

Floor Framing (0.5 points)

Roof Framing (0.5 points)

Landscape Wood (0.5 points)

Exterior Wall Sheathing (0.5 points)

Floor Sheathing (0.5 points)

Roof Sheathing (0.5 points)

Exterior Wall Siding (0.5 points)

Cabinets (0.5 points)

Counters (0.5 points)

Windows (0.5 points).

Other eligible components include: aggregate and cement, gypsum, masonry, counters and insulation.

Result

If all wood products listed above are available within 500 miles, it would be possible to earn all three possible points from FSC-certified wood (opportunity to earn six for local wood products, capped at maximum of three points). Based on the development of the SmartGuide and COC tracking measures, it may actually be easier to document this credit for wood products than many other building products (Additional RA services?)

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ID1.1

Innovative Design (4 points)

Provide description and justification for a specific measure.

Intent

Incorporate green design and construction measures beyond those contained in the LEED for Homes Rating System that produce tangible, demonstrable environmental improvements.

Requirement

The builder shall prepare a written submittal to USGBC/LEED-H that explains: The intent of the credit; The proposed requirement for compliance; The proposed documentation to demonstrate compliance; And, a description and estimate of the benefit/impact provided by the proposed measure.

Result: By committing to increased FSC-certified wood usage, above the capped level for MR5.2, USGBC/LEED-H may be persuaded to offer an additional point for innovation on the pilot project.

For information on where to find FSC certified construction products please see www.rainforestalliance.org/smartguides and www.fsc.org. For information on successful strategies for specifying FSC certified products please visit www.rainforestalliance.org/greenbuilding and download the guide "Designing and Building with FSC". For more information on working with Rainforest Alliance on your green building project please contact Rick Hilton at 212-677-1900

This document reflects our current understanding of the LEED for Homes standard. These credits may change as the pilot moves forward and we will update this document as needed. Please do not use this document in place of verifying your credits with the USGBC and LEED for Homes Program Providers.

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665 Broadway, Suite 500, New York, NY 10012-2331
Tel (212) 677-1900, Fax (212) 677-2187, www.rainforest-alliance.org