



# USGBC LEED Purchasing Credits

## 1. Overview of Organization

Name of Organization: U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Website: <http://www.usgbc.org/>

Email: [info@usgbc.org](mailto:info@usgbc.org)

Funding Sources: Membership dues

Type of Organization: Non-profit

Partners: <http://www.usgbc.org/organizations>

Location: USA

Mission: "To transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life for all." <sup>i</sup>

## 2. Sustainable Purchasing Activities and Resources

1. Materials and Resources (MR) Overview

[http://www.usgbc.org/guide/bdc#mr\\_overview](http://www.usgbc.org/guide/bdc#mr_overview)

2. EBOM MRc2.1: Sustainable Purchasing Calculator

<http://www.usgbc.org/resources/ebom-mrc21-sustainable-purchasing-calculator>

## 3. Sustainable Purchasing Guidance Materials

**Background on LEED:** "LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. To receive LEED certification, building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification. Prerequisites and credits differ for each rating system (e.g. Existing Buildings, New Construction), and teams choose the best fit for their project." <sup>ii</sup>

### 1. Pilot Credit Resource for LEED v4 Materials and Purchasing Credits

<http://www.usgbc.org/sites/default/files/LEED%20v4%20Pilot%20Credit%20Resource%20for%20MR.pdf>

"The guidance in this document is in draft. The content of this guidance is based on pilot credit feedback, v4 beta testing, reference guide review, past addenda, and alignment with draft submission forms. This document is applicable to all rating systems listed in the pilot credit, as such it is divided into proportions relevant to different pilot credits and not all portions are relevant to all credits." <sup>iii</sup>

Year Guidance was Published: Draft in 2013

Access: Full public access

Types of Purchasers: Any

Regional Focus: USA

Languages: English

*Topics covered:*

✓environmental sustainability

social sustainability

✓✓economic sustainability

*Steps:*

√ Determining product cost; √√ determining total materials cost; √√√ defining a product; √√√ location valuation factor

*Product categories covered:*

√ Wall boards; √ concrete admixtures; √ paints; √ carpets; √ desk and side chairs; √ salvaged and reused materials; √ furniture; √√ permanently installed building products (installed finishes; framing; interior walls; cabinets; casework, doors, roof etc.); √√ mechanical, plumbing and electrical equipment; √ special equipment (elevators, escalators, process equipment and fire suppression systems)

## 2. Sustainable Purchasing Policy

<http://www.usgbc.org/credits/mrp1>

A prerequisite that requires LEED users to create a sustainable purchasing policy that establishes guiding principles for the purchase of environmentally preferable products and materials when economically feasible. <sup>iv</sup>

Sustainable Purchasing MR Credits:

Ongoing consumables: <http://www.usgbc.org/credits/existing-buildings/v2009/mrc1>

Durable goods: <http://www.usgbc.org/credits/existing-buildings/v2008/mrc21>

Facility Alterations and Additions: <http://www.usgbc.org/credits/existing-buildings/v2008/mrc3>

Reduced mercury in lamps: <http://www.usgbc.org/credits/existing-buildings/v2008/mrc42>

Food: <http://www.usgbc.org/credits/existing-buildings/v2008/mrc5>

Year Guidance was Published: 2009

Access: Full public access

Types of Purchasers: any

Regional Focus: USA

Languages: English

*Topics covered:*

√√√ environmental sustainability    √ social sustainability    economic sustainability

*Steps for a Sustainable Purchasing Policy:*

See this link: <http://www.leeduser.com/credit/ebom-2009/MRp1>

√ Collaborate with vendors to review policy goals and identify preferred products; √ issue copies of policy to all relevant personnel; √ ensure policy is being observed

*USGBC's Sustainable Purchasing Policy discusses the Materials and Resources credits in the following areas, and the MR credit links above provide further detail:*

√√√ Ongoing consumables; √√√ durable goods; √√√ facility alterations and additions; √√√ reduced mercury in lamps; √√√ food

## 4. Observations

LEED is a widely adopted and referenced green building standard, and while it is not written for a purchasing audience, it now includes some credits specific to purchasing. Other credits may have purchasing implications, for example, on sourcing of sustainable timber for flooring or low-VOC paints. LEED guidelines are publicly available and primarily intended for professionals in the building, construction and architecture community. The purchasing credits are aimed at specifiers in the building construction sector, though other organizations might find them useful. Controversially, LEED v4 has striven for promoting innovation and leadership in building performance, especially in transparency and disclosure of materials and chemicals-related risks for human health. IEC thinks the pilot credit on establishing a purchasing policy is likely to be more accepted by industry.

<sup>i</sup> USGBC. *About USGBC, USGBC's Mission*. Accessed from: <http://www.usgbc.org/About>

<sup>ii</sup> USGBC. *LEED*. Accessed from: <http://www.usgbc.org/leed>

<sup>iii</sup> USGBC LEED. (2013). *Pilot Credit Resource for LEED v4 Materials and Purchasing Credits*.

<sup>iv</sup> USGBC. *EBOM-2009 MRp1: Sustainable Purchasing Policy*. Accessed from: <http://www.leeduser.com/credit/ebom-2009/MRp1>