How your PEFC-certified products contribute to points in LEED v5

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LEED v5 Overview

In April 2025, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) released LEED v5 which enables PEFC-certified wood and paper products to help achieve LEED credits. In this new version, references to forest certifications are now located outside of the main body of LEED, within the LEED Resources document. This change enables more frequent updates since standards and ecolabels continually evolve and improve between LEED updates. Wood and paper products certified to the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) contribute to earning points within the following LEED Rating Systems:

- LEED v5 Building Design and Construction (BD+C)
- LEED v5 Interior Design and Construction (ID+C)
- LEED v5 Operations and Maintenance (O+M)

Non-Structural PEFC certified wood products
Non-Structural PEFC certified wood products contribute to points within LEED v5 BD+C and ID+C rating systems' new MR Credit 4: Building Product Selection & Procurement (BPSP) and can be found within the LEED v5 BPSP Criteria Areas & Achievement Levels in LEED v5 Resources document.

Structural PEFC certified wood products
Structural PEFC certified wood products contribute to points within LEED v5 BD+C New Construction rating system under Pilot credit MRpc 181 Multi-Attribute Structure, Enclosure, Hardscape, and Other Building Materials Project Priority Credit.

PEFC certified paper products
PEFC certified paper products contribute to points within LEED v5 O+M rating system, Green Cleaning Indoor Environmental Quality EQc7 under Janitorial Paper.

LEED v5: How PEFC Certified Wood Contributes to LEED Points

1. **Non-Structural PEFC Certified Wood Products**
   PEFC certified non-structural wood products are now found within LEED v5 BD+C and ID+C, MR Credit 4: Building Product Selection & Procurement (BPSP). This new LEED v5 credit was introduced to evaluate non-structural building products and leverages the new Multi-Attribute Scoring system addressing five Criteria Areas of human health, climate health, ecosystem health, social health & equity, and circular economy.

   This credit rewards the selection of eligible interior and enclosure materials from the following product categories:

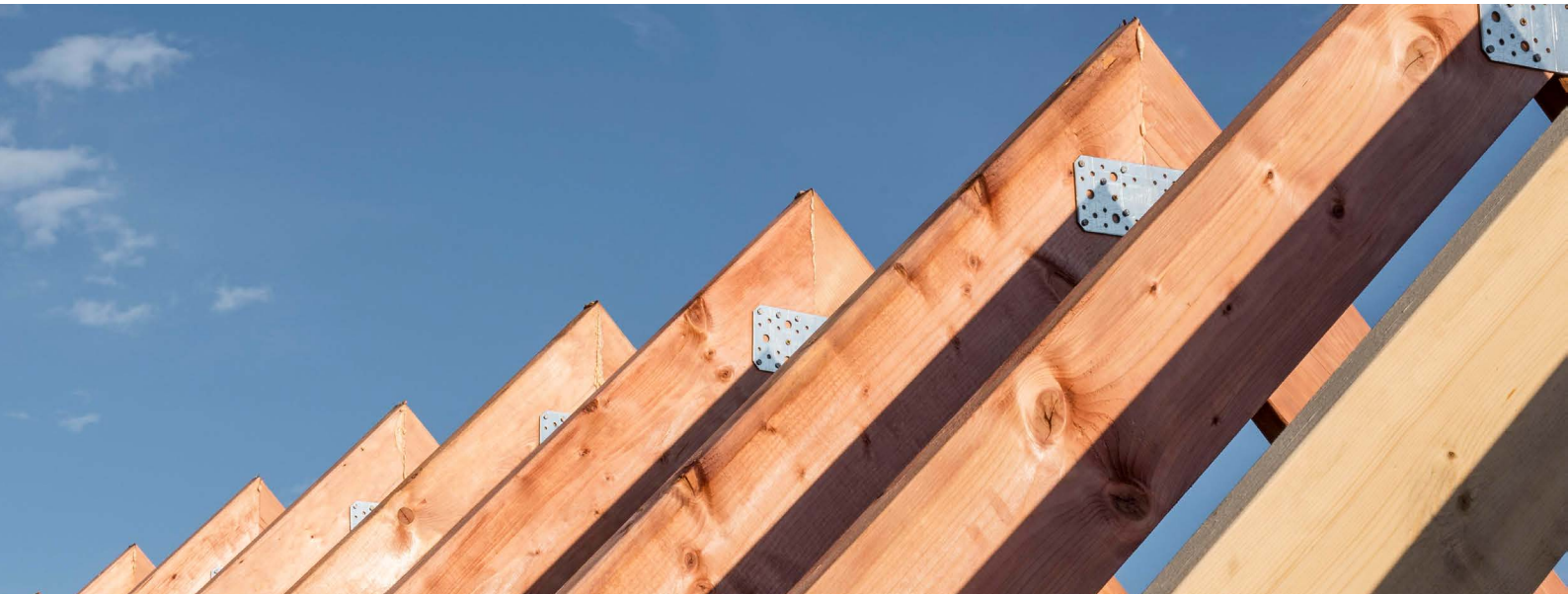
   - Paints and coatings
   - Adhesives and sealants
   - Flooring
   - Walls
   - Ceilings
   - Insulation
   - Furniture
   - Composite wood
   - Plumbing fixture

This guidance document explains the five Criteria Areas and three Achievement Levels in which various product certifications and ecolabels are evaluated. For example, under Wood Products, PEFC Certified Chain of Custody currently earns a Level 2 for Ecosystem Health and a Level 1 for Social Health & Equity, for a new LEED Multi-Attribute Score (MAS) of 3.

Table 1: Product Documentation Scores in LEED v5

	Criteria Areas					
Eligible Product Documentation	Human Health	Climate Health	Ecosystem Health	Social Health & Equity	Circular Economy	LEED Multi-Attribute Score (max = 5)
Wood Products: "SFI Certified Chain of Custody - Promoting Sustainable Forestry and Recycled Content" label	-	-	1	-	1	2
Wood Products: "SFI Certified Chain of Custody - Promoting Sustainable Forestry and Recycled Content" label	-	-	2	1	-	3
Wood Products: "SFI Certified Chain of Custody - Promoting Sustainable Forestry" label	-	-	2	1	-	3
Wood Products: "PEFC Recycled" label	-	-	1	-	1	2
Wood Products: "PEFC Certified" label	-	-	2	1	-	3

PEFC's Sustainable Forest Management and Chain of Custody Standards are recognized as set out above. SFI is the North American member of the PEFC global alliance. FSC also receives recognition for the FSC Recycled, FSC Mix, and FSC 100% labels. USGBC can review new information and update this table to assign additional points to the Multi-Attribute Score.



Example 1: Product Category - Flooring

Let us assume the **total cost of all flooring products is $100,000.** To achieve 1 LEED point, the adjusted value of all flooring products must be 100% or greater than the original value. This guidance document lists the various product certifications, ecolabels, or declarations on the left column, and their associated Multi-Attribute Score on the right column.

- Assume the entire cost of carpet for the project is **$10,000.** And the carpet has an **EPD Product-Specific Type III** documentation, with a Multi-Attribute Score of 1. Therefore, the product is valued at **$10,000.**
- Assume the entire cost of wood flooring for the project is **$75,000.** And the wood flooring is **PEFC Chain of Custody Certified,** with a Multi-Attribute Score of 3. Therefore, the wood flooring is now valued at **$225,000.**
- Assume the entire ceramic flooring for the project is **$5,000.** And that the ceramic has no qualifying product documentation, **its value is zero.**

Carpet:	$10,000+	Divided by **$100,000** (the original total floor cost) = 2.35	The newly adjusted value of **$235,000** exceeds 100% of its original value, so the flooring category would receive **1 point.**
Wood floor:	$225,000+		
Ceramic:	$0		
Total Adjusted Value:	**$235,000**	**2.35 x 100 = 235%**	

Example 2: Product Category - Composite Wood

Let us assume the **total cost of all composite wood products is $50,000.** To achieve 1 LEED point, the adjusted value of all composite wood products must be 100% or greater than the original value. This guidance document lists the various product certifications, ecolabels, or declarations in the left hand column, and their associated Multi-Attribute Score in the right hand column.

- Assume all the OSB for the project costs **$10,000.** And the OSB has a **Declare v2.0 label,** with a Multi-Attribute Score of 1. Therefore, the product is valued at **$10,000.**
- Assume all the veneer doors cost **$15,000.** And the doors are **Green Seal GS-11 Certified,** with a Multi-Attribute Score of 2. And the doors are **PEFC COC certified,** they get a Multi-Attribute Score of 3, which means the doors receive the maximum Multi-Attribute Score of 5. Therefore, the doors have a new value of **$75,000.**
- Assume all cabinets cost **$25,000.** And the cabinets are **PEFC Certified,** they earn a Multi-Attribute Score of 3. That means their new value is **$75,000.**

OSB:	$10,000	Divided by **$50,000** (the original total Composite Wood cost) = 3.2	The newly adjusted value of **$160,000** exceeds 100% of its original value, so the composite wood category would receive **1 point.**
Doors:	$75,000		
Cabinets:	$75,000		
Total Adjusted Value:	**$160,000**	**3.2 x 100 = 320%**	

LEED v5 Rating Systems stipulate wood products must have at least 50% wood content in the final product to be eligible. For example, a plastic chair with metal parts and wood armrests would not be eligible since the wood makes up less than 50% by mass/volume of the finished product. However, a coffee table or flooring product made up of 51% or more wood, does comply and is therefore eligible.

Example 3: Product Category - Furniture

Let us assume the **total cost of all furniture products is $200,000.** To achieve 1 LEED point, the adjusted value of all furniture must be 100% or greater of the original value. This guidance document lists the various product certifications, ecolabels, or declarations in the left hand column, and their associated Multi-Attribute Score in the right hand column.

- Assume the total cost of sofas is **$75,000.** And those sofas have a **third party verified Health Produce Declaration** with a Multi-Attribute Score of 2.Therefore, the sofas value is now **$150,000.**
- Assume the total cost of desk chairs is **$100,000.** And those chairs have a **Cradle to Cradle: Material Health Certificate, Bronze,** with a Multi-Attribute Score of 1. Therefore, the chairs' value is **$100,000.**
- Assume the total cost of coffee tables is **$25,000**. And those coffee tables have **PEFC 100% Recycled Content,** with a Multi-Attribute Score of 2. Those coffee tables have a newly adjusted value of **$50,000.**

Sofas:	$150,000	Divided by **$200,000** (the original total Furniture cost) = 1.5	The newly adjusted value of **$300,000** exceeds 100% of its original value, so the furniture category would receive **1 point.**
Chairs:	$100,000		
Tables:	$50,000		
Total Adjusted Value:	**$300,000**	**1.5 x 100 = 150%**	

Based on the examples above, this project would receive a total of 3 LEED points for the product categories of flooring, composite wood, and furniture.

2. Structural PEFC Certified Wood Products

LEED v5 BD+C, MRpc 181 Project Priority Credit: Multi-Attribute Structure, Enclosure, Hardscape, and Other Building Materials

PEFC certification for structural wood products can earn points in the new LEED v5 project pilot credit, Milti-Attribute Structure, Enclosure, Hardscape, and Other Building Materials. This credit was introduced to evaluate structural building products, and it leverages the same Multi-Attribute Scoring system as the MRc4 for non-structural wood. However, to achieve a point in this pilot credit, there is no adjusted value calculation required and simply sourcing products with a minimum Multi-Attribute Score of 3 is all that is required.

Projects leveraging this pilot credit must have a total of 15 permanently installed products with a minimum Multi-Attribute Score of 3 per product. If the project has 15 products, each with a minimum Multi-Attribute Score of 3, the project will earn 1 LEED point. Projects with 30 permanently installed products (of the same qualifications) will earn 2 LEED points.

For example, sourcing a wood product with PEFC Certified Chain of Custody, which has a Multi-Attribute Score of 3, counts as one of the fifteen products required in order to earn 1 LEED point. This includes PEFC certified sawn timber, CLT glulam beams,or OSB, or SIP panels. To achieve that point, they would just need to source 15 products.

3. PEFC Certified Paper Products

PEFC certified paper products can also earn points in the new LEED v5 O+M rating system, Green Cleaning Indoor Environmental Quality EQc7 under Janitorial Paper.

To earn 1 LEED point under Option 2. Cleaning Products and Materials, Janitorial Paper, at least 75% of all cleaning materials, by cost, must comply with at least one of the LEED approved standards. PEFC Chain of Custody certification is a USGBC approved standard and is named in this credit.

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