

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental, Design) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The LEED program is sponsored and managed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Developed to encourage contractors and homeowners to build “greener” buildings, while helping to provide a basis to meet regional environmental building code requirements. When a building is LEED certified we can quantify how well the building meets environmental standards. A LEED certified home may also qualify for substantial tax credits depending on the certification earned. Specific tax credit information varies by region.

To qualify as LEED certified, buildings are rated and given points values for various environmental factors and conditions. The following illustrates the points that may be obtained when using Premier SIPS (Structural Insulated Panels) for roof, wall and floor framing projects. To obtain a LEED rating a building must be evaluated by a certified LEED rater.

There are four levels of LEED certification based on points earned.

- Platinum: 52-69 total points
- Gold: 39-51 total points
- Silver: 33-38 total points
- Certified: 26-32 total points

Up to 23 points may be earned for using Premier SIPS in construction.

For detailed information about LEED visit: <http://www.leadbuilding.org> .

The following is a summary of the total possible LEED points that may be earned when using Premier SIPS in the construction process.

Energy & Atmosphere

Section	Detail	Points
EA Credit 1	Optimize energy performance	1-10
Additional Detail:	42% over standard equates to 10pts. Buildings under 20,000 sq. ft. can get 4 points by building to the prescriptive spec ASHRAE Advanced Energy Design Guide for Small Office Buildings 2004, or 1 pt for complying with Basic Criteria and Prescriptive Measures of the Advanced Buildings Benchmark™ Version 1.1 spec.	
Required Documentation:	Document energy savings using computer simulation over the prerequisite ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2004 (without amendments); and the prescriptive requirements (Sections 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 9.5) or performance requirements (Section 11) of ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2004 (without amendments).	
Total Possible Resource Energy & Atmosphere Points Achievable w/PBS SIPS		10



LEED & PREMIER SIPS, CONTINUED

Materials and Resources

Section	Detail	Points
MR Credit 2.1	Construction Waste Management.	1-2
Additional Detail:	Using SIPs offers up to 2/3 less jobsite waste because they are prefabricated when delivered to the jobsite.	
MR Credit 4.1	Recycled materials: 1 point for 10% of building, 2 points for 20% of building.	1-2
Additional Detail:	The EPS core in a Premier SIP has up to 10% of recycled polystyrene in each panel. Total percentage of SIPs in a house depends on where they are used.	
MR Credit 5.1	Regional materials: 1 point for 10% of building, 2 points for 20% of building.	1-2
Additional Detail:	Regional materials are defined as building materials or products that have been extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured, within 500 miles of the project site for a minimum of 10% (based on cost) of the total materials value. If only a fraction of a product or material is extracted/harvested/ recovered and manufactured locally, then only that percentage (by weight) shall contribute to the regional value.	
MR Credit 6	Rapidly renewable materials	1
Additional Detail:	The OSB in Premier SIP panels is made from plantations of rapidly renewable trees.	
MR Credit 7	Certified wood	1
Additional Detail:	50% of wood products used in the building must be Forest Stewardship Council certified. FSC OSB is available for PBS SIPS	
Total Possible Materials and Resources Points Achievable w/PBS SIPS		3

Indoor Environmental Quality

Section	Detail	Points
EQ Credit 3.2	Construction management IAQ plan before occupancy	1
Additional Detail:	One point will be awarded if contractor conducts an IAQ test prior to occupancy and detects a formaldehyde concentration less than 50 ppb.	
EQ Credit 4.1	Adhesives & Sealants	1
Additional Detail:	One point will be awarded if all adhesives and sealants applied inside the weather barrier meet the given VOC emission table. "Structural wood member adhesive" is listed in the table and must be under 140 g/l less water.	
EQ Credit 4.4	Low emitting wood fiber products	1
Additional Detail:	One point will be awarded if composite wood and agrifiber products are used on the interior of the building (defined as inside of the weatherproofing system) and shall contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins. Laminating adhesives used to fabricate on-site and shop-applied composite wood and agrifiber assemblies shall contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins.	

EQ Credit 7.1	Thermal comfort: design	1
Additional Detail:	One point will be awarded if the building envelope and HVAC system meet ASHRAE Standard 55-2004, Thermal Comfort Conditions for Human Occupancy.	
EQ Credit 7.2	Thermal comfort: design	1
Additional Detail:	An additional point is possible by surveying occupants on their thermal comfort 18 months after moving in.	
Total Possible Indoor Environmental Quality Points Achievable w/PBS SIPs		5

Innovation & Design Process

Section	Detail	Points
ID Credit 1	Innovation in design	1-4
Additional Detail:	Up to 4 points may be awarded for exceptional performance above the requirements set by the LEED-NE and/or innovative performance in Green Building categories. The innovation credit must be submitted in writing to demonstrate compliance and the design approach (strategies) used to meet requirements.	
ID Credit 2	LEED Accredited Professional	1
Additional Detail:	At least one principle participant on the project team must be a LEED Accredited Professional (AP)	
Total Possible Resource Energy & Atmosphere Points Achievable w/PBS SIPs		5

Please note: The preceding point values are for example only. Every building must be evaluated by a certified LEED analyst to accurately measure LEED environmental certifications. This summary is based on LEED for New Construction Version 2.2 - October, 2005.