



## SERVICE PROVIDER GUIDE

### Guidelines for Selecting a Green Materials Consultant

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#### Intent

This guide will help you learn more about what to look for when selecting a professional to assist in green material selection.

#### Background

Green materials include materials that have a minimal impact on adverse air quality effects, and minimal impact to the environment through extraction, manufacturing, transportation and installation. Material Safety Data Sheets as well as Chain of Custody information can provide a helpful background on the contents and history of a product. Many interior designers, architects, distributors or green materials specialists have experience identifying the key issues and can help you select environmentally preferable products that are appropriate to your project.

Within the LEED™ framework, material selection comprises one entire category, or up to 13 points.

Some important areas to consider with regard to material selection include:

- ❖ Certified wood (which certification program)
- ❖ VOC content
- ❖ No-added formaldehyde
- ❖ Recycled content (be careful of in-house recycled claims)
- ❖ Rapidly renewable
- ❖ Chemical additives (for pests, mold, etc.)
- ❖ Method of transportation
- ❖ Method of extraction
- ❖ Method of manufacturing
- ❖ Method of installation
- ❖ Maintenance requirements
- ❖ The different LCA programs (ATHENA, BEES)

#### Questions to Ask

When selecting a green materials expert, review the general questions for selecting a design professional and the additional questions as listed below:

##### ***Q1: How do you evaluate individual products for environmental criteria?***

Many materials market themselves as being green when in fact, if you look closely they may not meet your requirements for health or environmental impact. It is important to work with a design professional that has experience contacting manufacturers directly, knows what to ask to get to the complete story, and knows how to interpret that information into appropriate purchasing decisions.