

Taking the LEED® with FSC



At the forefront of the green building movement in North America is the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system. Under LEED®, a building can earn points by using responsibly sourced, FSC-certified wood products.

FSC: The best choice for our forests

What is LEED®?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) green building rating system aims to assure environmentally sustainable design and construction by rating buildings on their ability to meet criteria in the following six categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation in Design. Depending on the number of points a building earns, it then receives a rating of LEED® certified, silver, gold or platinum. While currently focused on commercial buildings, a new LEED® standard for homes has been launched in the U.S., and is expected to launch in Canada in Spring 2009. For more visit www.cagbc.org

LEED® and FSC-certified Wood

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international certification and labeling system for paper and wood products that come from responsibly managed forests, and verified recycled sources. Under FSC certification, forests are certified against a set of strict environmental and social standards, and fibre from certified forests is tracked all the way to the consumer through the Chain of Custody certification system. This means forests, sawmills, manufacturers, distributors and brokers must all obtain FSC certification in order for a product to carry the FSC logo or label. In order to become FSC-certified, companies are audited by independent third party auditors. Once certified, companies receive a unique certification code that identifies them.

For more visit www.fsccanada.org

How do I become FSC-certified?

1. Contact an FSC certifier.
Visit www.fsccanada.org/fsccertifiers.htm for list
2. Submit an application to the FSC certifier and receive a price a timeline quote. Avg. cost is \$3,000
3. Complete an on-site audit
4. Certification approval and receipt of company certification code.
5. Annual Audit

The LEED® Materials and Resources Credit 7 recognizes the environmental and social value of building with responsibly sourced wood by including a credit that is specific to the use of FSC-certified products. Buildings may earn this credit, with a value of one point, if a minimum of 50% of wood-based materials and products (by cost) in the building are FSC-certified. This includes, but is not limited to structural framing and general dimensional framing, flooring, finishes, furnishings, and non-rented temporary construction applications such as bracing, concrete form work and pedestrian barriers. The *MR7: Certified Wood* credit can also be combined with other credits to earn multiple LEED® points. For more visit www.cagbc.org/leed/systems/new_construction/documents.php

In order for a building project to achieve the *MR 7: Certified Wood* credit, the project manager must provide, for each product purchased, the FSC Chain of Custody certificate number (e.g. XXX-COC-#####) from the vendor or manufacturer from whom it was purchased. This means that the FSC-certified product must be purchased from a company that is FSC-certified. An invoice and shipping documents from the FSC-certified company that identifies the product type, cost per unit, status of product as FSC-certified, and the company's FSC certificate number is sufficient proof for the LEED® submittal requirements.

LEED® -Certified buildings constructed with FSC-certified wood (MR 7)

Intent: Encourage environmentally responsible forest management.

Requirements: Use a minimum of 50% of wood-based materials and products, certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria, for wood building components including, but not limited to, structural framing and general dimensional framing, flooring, finishes, furnishings, and non-rented temporary construction applications such as bracing, concrete form work and pedestrian barriers.

For more information contact The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Canada at:
www.fsccanada.org, T: 416-778-5568 x26, E: info@fsccanada.org

Earning MRc7

How to specify FSC-certified Wood

The following steps are intended to guide you in successfully sourcing FSC-certified products for your LEED® project:

Step 1: Design Development—Identify wood requirements to meet MRc7

- Identify what wood products are necessary for your project
 - Product type and specifications (species, dimensions, volume)
 - Identify additional product criteria (e.g. urea formaldehyde free, geographic location etc.)

Step 2: Contract Development—Develop FSC Specification Language and accompanying forms.

- Create shortlist of 'FSC Qualified Suppliers' for all required wood products. Be sure to include company information, contact information, and certification code (XXX-COC-#####).
 - Download list of Canadian suppliers at www.fscscanada.org/findwoodproducts.htm
 - Search for certified companies, or verify certification credentials at www.fsc-info.org.
- Establish 'FSC Specification Language'. Use language that is FSC specific to ensure that communication between the project team is clear and that you receive the specific products you desire.
 - Download "Designing and Building with FSC" for sample specification language, and other useful tips at www.fscus.org/green_building/

Step 3: Construction— Manage architects, general contractors, sub-contractors, and FSC-certified suppliers during the construction phase.

- Create and maintain 'FSC Product Accounting' form
 - The project manager should maintain, for each product: supplier's name, chain of custody certification number, product description, copy of purchase invoice.
 - Invoice should include: supplier's name/contact info, chain of custody certification number, product description, product identification as FSC-certified, purchaser's name/contact info, and cost per unit of each item.
 - Confirm that all suppliers are FSC-certified by verifying that the company is listed (check by name or certification code) at www.fsc-info.org.
- Monitor submittals. Throughout the construction process, the project manager must ensure that all information required in the FSC Product Accounting form, and all invoices are collected and stored.

Step 4: Submit documentation

- An invoice and shipping documents from the FSC-certified company that identifies the product type, cost per unit, status of product as FSC-certified, and the company's FSC certificate number is sufficient proof for the LEED® submittal requirements.



"Designing and Building with FSC" is a step by step guide that will help you successfully achieve LEED® MR7: certified Wood.

Available online at www.fscus.org/greenbuilding/

Earning Multiple LEED® Credits with FSC

Of the 70 points outlined in the LEED® Canada Standard, 17 are relevant to wood. Products qualifying for the certified wood credit may be able to achieve other wood-related points using the same product. The top credits most often combined with MRc7 are:

Materials and Resources: Use of local materials (MRc5), Rapidly renewable materials (MRc6)

Indoor Environmental Quality: Low emitting materials (IEQc4)

How do I find FSC-certified products?

The past two years have seen a remarkable growth in the availability and range of FSC-certified wood products available. Be sure to ask your distributors or manufacturers if they are FSC-certified.

- **Want to find FSC-certified suppliers in Canada?** Download a list of FSC-certified suppliers at www.fscscanada.org/findwoodproducts.htm
- **Still can't find the building materials you're looking for?** Submit your FSC product needs to info@fscus.org and they will be distributed to FSC suppliers across North America.
- **Want to verify if your supplier is FSC-certified?** Visit www.fsc-info.org to search the international database by certificate code or company name