

Understanding Health Certifications for Building Products

Lauren Asplen, Director of Healthy Sustainability Programs, BlueGreen Alliance

ABSTRACT

Health is the new frontier in the built environment. But a building or home cannot begin to be deemed healthy if its building blocks – both the material used for exterior construction and the elements used to build and decorate the interior – aren't healthy to begin with. Identifying healthy products is made easier with a wealth of new tools and certification programs that are being implemented. But that variety also creates confusion over what each program brings to the table and how that meets the needs of the user. This session will review the different systems in use, identify their main priorities and show how to search for certifications. Attendees also will be given direction on how and where to get additional information. Plus, we want them to give feedback on what other tools would make their lives and jobs easier.

BIOGRAPHY

Lauren Asplen joined the BlueGreen Alliance in 2013. She spearheaded a program that gained White House recognition in 2012 as a “Champion of Change” for engaging front-line workers in identifying energy efficiency opportunities. Currently, she is the project lead for the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation’s work on identifying toxins within energy efficient building products. Most recently, she attended the first Harvard University and USBGC executive class on Building for Health.