

Material Transparency and LEED v4: How Third-Party Certification Can Simplify Compliance and Assurance

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ABSTRACT

Material Ingredient Reporting and Product Transparency are on the rise in the green building industry, as builders and architects strive to improve the health of their buildings and the understand the environmental impact of specified materials. In the Pilot Credits of LEED 2009 and in the more stringent requirements of LEED v4, Material Ingredients and Environmental Product Declarations are two credits that many builders and architects are determined to achieve. Industry-leading companies such as Tarkett, BASF, and Interface have taken the initiative to not only disclose their material ingredients, but to certify their disclosures to LEED v4 compliant standards. This provides assurance to project teams and LEED reviewers that certified products comply with the intent of the LEED v4 Material Ingredient credit and can contribute to points toward certification. This presentation will teach attendees about the changing standards in green building, Product Transparency, and Material Ingredient Reporting, and how transparency documents and certification can simplify and verify the path towards LEED 2009 and LEED v4 certification, the premier standard in green buildings.

BIOGRAPHY

With over 30 years of practical experience, Tad Radzinski is a leading expert in corporate responsibility and environmental management. Tad, co-founder and Certification Officer of GreenCircle Certified, LLC, provides third-party verification of environmental claims, ensuring transparency in the green marketplace. Tad is additionally President of Sustainable Solutions Corporation, delivering consultative services to companies in a wide range of global industries. Tad is an adjunct professor at Villanova University, teaching graduate classes such as Sustainable Buildings and Operations and Advanced Life Cycle Assessment. Formerly the EPA's Waste Minimization Program National Expert, Tad has been a trusted advisor for Fortune 500 companies including ASSA ABLOY, Unilever, Merck, Stanley Black & Decker, Saint-Gobain, Kohler and Florida Crystals.