



LEED v4 was introduced in 2013 and is the newest version of the world's premier benchmark for high-performance green buildings. Steel framing is recognized for a number of important environmental benefits, particularly high recycling rates and recycled content, and makes key contributions to achieving LEED certification.

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization—Sourcing of Raw Materials -1 point

A credit is available for projects where at least 25%, by cost, of the total value of permanently installed building products in the project meet the criteria for responsible extraction. The Recycled Content of cold-formed steel makes an important contribution to achieving this goal.

Construction and Demolition Waste Management - up to 2 points

Cold-formed steel framing is 100% recyclable, an attribute that is rewarded with credits for diverting construction debris from the waste stream. Calculations can be by weight or volume and so the specific contribution will vary by project and must be determined by the contractor.

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization— Environmental Product Declarations - up to 2 points

LEED v4 approaches building materials content credits in a completely different way than previous editions of LEED by placing an emphasis on transparency and documentation, and cold-formed steel. This is achieved through an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) which is compiled from a life cycle assessment (LCA) that is developed according to the rules put forth in the product category rule (PCR).

- In this category, credits are earned when at least 20 installed products from at least five manufacturers provide an EPD. The industry-wide EPD soon to be released enables cold-formed steel to qualify as 1/2 of a product. Your SFIA manufacturer member may also be able to provide a product specific EPD which is valued as one full product.
- A second options for an additional credit is available when the value of products covered by the EPD represents 50% of the project cost.

An additional exemplary performance point is available here for sourcing at least 40 qualifying products from five manufacturers. (See below: LEED v4 IN Credit: Innovation)

LEED v4 IN Credit: Innovation - up to 2 points

Achieve exemplary performance in an existing LEED v4 prerequisite or credit that allows exemplary performance, as specified in the LEED Reference Guide, v4 edition. An exemplary performance point is typically earned for achieving double the credit requirements or the next incremental percentage threshold.