

SpecRite

June, 2005

from National Guard Products, Inc.

GOING GREEN

Not with Envy or Irish Luck,

but with your building construction. From San Diego to Boston it seems that Green Building certification is gaining momentum and for good reason. The benefits can include substantial energy cost savings over the long term life of the building and in some places considerable tax breaks and incentives for the green building owner.

Currently there are only about 200 LEED® certified green buildings in the world, but with dozens more seeking the certification. In Washington State a new law will require all state buildings, including schools to meet the silver level of LEED® rating certification. 41 other U.S. city and county governments have also adopted LEED® certification requirements.

So what do those of us in the door and hardware industry have to contribute? Let's explore the certification requirements to understand where our contributions occur.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System® is a national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. The council's mission as the nation's foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry is to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. **The LEED® rating system contains 69 possible points and 7 prerequisites for certification ranging from design criteria, site selection, disposal of construction waste, selection of building products, energy conservation, water efficiency(indoor as well as outdoor site drainage) and indoor environmental quality. Certification of a building is achieved by accumulating points. 26 points are the minimum required for green certification, with 31 for silver, 39 and its gold, and at 56 platinum is achieved.**



As you might guess, a lot of focus is on the **building design** and **major systems** in the building (like the HVAC and lighting systems) which consume energy. The **Indoor Environmental Quality** is another major segment where points can be achieved. However, the **building products** that are supplied are important and so is the **content of the material in them**. Most of you have heard of "Green" Wood Doors which contain wood that complies with the LEED® Materials and Resources Credit 7, Certified Wood, which has the intent of encouraging environmentally responsible forest management. These doors cost extra and are usually only supplied when they are specified. **What other credits can be contributed to by the products we supply every day to the jobsite?**

Recycled Content is a prime contributor, under the Materials and Resources credits 4.1 and 4.2. It is here that many of **National Guard Products** items contribute since between 70 to 80% of the aluminum and brass/bronze alloys contained in our thresholds and metal gasketing retainers comes



GOING GREEN

from post-consumer recycled material. **NGP will furnish a letter documenting the percentage of the value of the material ordered which is recycled and contributes toward this credit.** Many other manufacturers in our industry also use recycled metal which can contribute toward this certification credit.

Certification credit is also available under **Materials and Resources** credits 5.1 and 5.2, **Local/Regional Materials for building materials that are manufactured (final assembly point) within 500 miles of the project** thereby supporting the regional economy and reducing the environmental impacts resulting from transportation. Considering the project location, check to see which manufacturing facilities you've obtained product from are within the 500 mile radius and include the value of materials supplied from them when reporting LEED® certification point items to the contractor.

Using environmentally friendly products and finishes and specifying products which help the overall energy efficiency performance of the building are also your responsibility.

The Indoor Environmental Quality prerequisite requires a minimum Indoor Air Quality performance. Low-emitting VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) type sealants, coatings, and chemicals used in the building help the building achieve this requirement. Many products, including **NGP Lite Kits and Louvers** now use powder coating technology which does not produce any VOCs in the application process, and does not give off VOCs in use on the job or when recycled.

LEED® Energy & Atmosphere Credit 1 Optimize Energy Performance, requirements include reducing design energy cost and design of the building envelope and building systems to maximize energy performance. It almost goes without saying these days that to accomplish these goals, exterior door openings must be equipped with a quality perimeter weather-strip and door bottom seal to keep costly heated or air-conditioned indoor air from leaking out around the perimeter of

exterior doors. Here is a case where supplying economy grade vinyl seals that may oxidize and deteriorate with exposure to ultraviolet light and crack or tear after exposure to extreme heat or cold may result in a reduction of the effectiveness of the weather-strip, and wind up costing the owner more for energy. **NGP recommends that better quality silicone, neoprene or nylon brush seals be supplied on today's commercial buildings for the best long term results.**

The certification process involves a lot of paperwork for the contractor and architect. They will most likely need backup from their suppliers regarding all qualifying items to substantiate their claim to the credits for the certification level they desire for the building. Contacting your manufacturers for information regarding how their products help contribute to the various credit points available will help you compile the information you will need to provide to the contractor. **NGP customer service is able to provide the required documentation for LEED® certification and any other specific project needs you may encounter, call us, we're here ready to help!**



Written by
Roger Skold, AHC, technical director at NGP.

Spec Rite is designed as a vehicle to provide information to Architects and Specification Writers to make them better informed and to make their job easier.

Published by National Guard Products

4985 E. Raines Road
Memphis, TN 38118

Phone: 1-800-647-7874

Fax: 1-800-255-7874

www.ngp.com