

McCain Walls®

LEED Q&A



Aluminum is particularly friendly to LEED certification due to its near infinite recyclability and high-index for quality of life. *McCain Walls* are not only aluminum but reusable – furthering our viability as a legitimate, flexible, green product.

Learn more about LEED and how McCain Walls reusable modular walls help architects, general contractors, and owner partners with LEED efforts..

LEED – WHAT IS IT?

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

Available for virtually all building project types, from new construction to interior fit-outs and operation and maintenance, LEED provides a framework that project teams can apply to create healthy, highly-efficient, and cost-saving green buildings.

LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and works on a system of points (credits) in a wide variety of categories.

Applicable for all type of buildings, LEED is based on prerequisites and credits that a project meets to achieve a certification level: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

WHO REGULATES LEED?

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) is responsible for regulating LEED credits.

USGBC was established in 1993 with a mission to promote sustainability-focused practices in the building industry. Representatives from around 60 firms and several nonprofits gathered that April in the American Institute of Architects' boardroom for the founding meeting.

Ideas were shared for an open and balanced coalition spanning the entire building industry and for a green building rating system, which would later become LEED. Since the rating system's unveiling in 2000, it has become an international standard for environmentally sound buildings, certifying hundreds of thousands of square feet per day.

WHAT IS THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF LEED?

LEED v4 is the most current version, and is designed to up the ante with a more flexible, performance-based approach that calls for measurable results throughout a building's life cycle. It also allows for a more streamlined user experience and more goal-oriented credits.

LEED v4 is organized to promote action in six key areas, known as credit categories:

- Location and Transport
- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Materials and Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality

Under each of these credit categories are a collection of mandatory and optional strategies.

Mandatory strategies are deemed “prerequisites” for entering the system, while optional strategies are referred to as “credits”. Each prerequisite and credit has a stated “intent” and a set of requirements.

To achieve certification, projects must document compliance with all prerequisites and a sufficient number of credit requirements to amass 40 of the available 100 points in LEED. Higher levels of achievement are rewarded with higher levels of certification:

- 40 points- LEED Certified
- 50 points- LEED Silver
- 60 points- LEED Gold
- 80 points- LEED Platinum

WHERE DOES MCCAIN WALLS FIT IN?

All possibly qualifying categories are [guidelines](#) and require the buy-in of architects, general contractors, and owner partners.

Construction and Demolition Waste Planning/Management - to reduce construction and demolition waste disposed of in landfills and incineration facilities by recovering, reusing, and recycling materials.

Long-Term Commitment- to encourage choices that will conserve resources and reduce environmental harm from materials manufacturing and transport for tenants' relocation.

Interiors Life-Cycle Impact Reduction - to encourage adaptive reuse and optimize the environmental performance of products and materials.

Construction and Demolition Waste Management- to reduce construction and demolition waste disposed of in landfills and incineration facilities by recovering, reusing, and recycling materials.

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Material Ingredients- to encourage the use of products and materials for which life-cycle information is available and that have environmentally, economically, and socially preferable life-cycle impacts. To reward project teams for selecting products for which the chemical ingredients in the product are inventoried using an accepted methodology and for selecting products verified to minimize the use and generation of harmful substances. To reward raw material manufacturers who produce products verified to have improved life-cycle impacts.

Low-Emitting Materials- to reduce concentrations of chemical contaminants that can damage air quality, human health, productivity, and the environment.

Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan - to promote the well-being of construction workers and building occupants by minimizing indoor air quality problems associated with construction and renovation.

WHY LEED?

LEED certification means healthier, more productive places, reduced stress on the environment by encouraging energy and resource-efficient buildings, and savings from increased building value, higher lease rates and decreased utility costs.

LEED-certified buildings will directly contribute \$29.8 billion to U.S. GDP by 2018.

For more information on LEED points visit www.usgbc.org.

Resources:

www.usgbc.org/credits/
www.usgbc.org/sites/all/assets/section/files/v4-guide-excerpts/Excerpt_v4_IDC.pdf
www.aluminum.org/sustainability/aluminum-green-buildings