

abnormally green

baltix sustainable furniture



Q: What are LEED and LEED for Commercial Interiors?

A: A rating/certification system developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is an acronym for “Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design”. The LEED program is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing and recognizing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the USGBC representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and contribute to its evolution. LEED for Commercial Interiors (formerly LEED-CI) is a rating system that addresses the specifics of tenant spaces primarily in office and institutional buildings. LEED for Commercial Interiors provides the opportunity for building tenants to design and certify high performance, healthy, durable, affordable, and environmentally sound workplaces. More information on these programs is available at the USGBC website at the following link: http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEED_main.asp

Q: What are some of the areas LEED ratings address?

A: Based on accepted energy and environmental principles, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials & resources, and indoor environmental quality. There is also recognition for innovation in design which rewards strategies that exceed or are not covered in the existing rating system. Finally, additional recognition can be achieved for designing to meet regional requirements.

Q: Are there other LEED rating systems?

A: While Baltix Furniture has the most potential impact on LEED for Commercial Interiors projects, there are several other LEED rating systems that Baltix may influence. LEED also has programs for New Construction, Core & Shell, Schools, Neighborhood Development, Retail, Healthcare, and Homes as well as a program for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance.

Q: How does LEED for Commercial Interiors impact Baltix?

A: Baltix products can support several areas of the current 2009 LEED for Commercial Interiors requirements. Specific LEED requirements that Baltix may support are materials reuse, recycled content, regional materials, rapidly renewable materials, certified wood, low-emitting materials, daylight and views, and innovation in design.

All LEED points are based on the total project scope, so the actual point contribution of Baltix Furniture to a project will vary on a case-by-case basis. Baltix has LEED accredited professionals on staff to assist in evaluating specific project contributions, but this will ultimately be the responsibility of each project's LEED coordinator upon submission of the certification application.

Q: How can I use LEED to market Baltix?

A: Baltix products can support points for LEED certification, since many of the requirements are readily met by Baltix furniture. The question of to what degree Baltix can assist in meeting LEED will always be based on case-by-case evaluation of each specific project and the design and planning of the furniture. Baltix can support enough LEED for Commercial Interiors points to be substantial for any Commercial Interior project pursuing certification.

Q: How many points are required for certification?

A: The following table shows the number of points (of 100 total) required for various levels of LEED for Commercial Interiors certification:

Certified:	40-49 points
Silver:	50-59 points
Gold:	60-79 points
Platinum:	80 and above points

Q: Which specific points can Baltix support?

A: The following represent specific LEED for Commercial Interiors point possibilities for Baltix Furniture:

1 point*:	MR Credit 3.2 Materials Reuse – Furniture and Furnishings
Requirements:	Use salvaged, refurbished or used furniture and furnishings for 30% of the total furniture and furnishings budget.
Comments:	Baltix workstation replacement surfaces or table tops can be integrated with existing system frames, panels and table bases to support this point.

*Potential of additional point for exemplary performance at 60%.

1-2 points*:	MR Credit 4 Recycled Content
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Requirements: Use materials with recycled content so the sum of postconsumer recycled content plus one-half of the preconsumer (also termed post-industrial) content equals at least 10% (1 point) or 20% (2 points) of the total value of the materials.

Comments: Percentage determined by weight. These points can be supported with appropriate Baltix material choices.

*Potential of additional point for exemplary performance at 30% content or above.

1 – 2 point*: MR Credit 5 Regional Materials

Requirement: Option 1 (1 point): Use a minimum of 20% regionally manufactured materials. Option 2 (2 points): Meet option 1 requirements plus use a minimum of 10% regionally extracted, harvested or recovered manufactured materials.

Comments: Measured in dollar value. These points can be supported with appropriate Baltix material choices. NOTE: These points are only available for projects within 500 miles of central Minnesota.

*Potential of additional point for exemplary performance at 20% content for option 2.

1 point*: MR Credit 6 Rapidly Renewable Materials

Requirement: Use minimum 5% rapidly renewable materials, defined as materials made from plants that are typically harvested within a 10-year cycle or less.

Comments: Measured in dollar value. This point can be supported with appropriate Baltix material choices.

*Potential of additional point for exemplary performance at 10%

1 point*: MR Credit 7 Certified Wood

Requirements: Use minimum 50% wood-based materials certified in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines.

Comments: Measured in dollar value. Baltix is FSC chain of custody certified and can support this point with appropriate Baltix material choices.

*Potential of additional point for exemplary performance at 95%.

1 point: IEQ Credit 4.5 Low-Emitting Materials - Systems Furniture and Seating

Requirements: Use systems furniture and office seating that is Greenguard certified or registered or meet similar emissions testing as specified in LEED for Commercial Interiors document.

Comments: Baltix has products (e.g., seating) that currently meet this requirement. The bulk of our products almost certainly meet these requirements, but we have not completed testing and/or certification – we hope to support this requirement in the future. The policy of Baltix is to always use materials to promote a healthy work environment regardless of LEED requirements.

1 point*: IEQ Credit 8.2 Daylight and Views, Views for Seated Spaces

Requirement: Views in 90% or more of all regularly occupied spaces have direct line of sight to outside environment (75% for private offices).

Comments: Strategies include lower partition heights, transparent/translucent panels, and open space design with Baltix furniture.

*Potential of additional point for exemplary performance.

1 point: ID Credit 1 Innovation in Design

Requirements: Identify intent of proposed innovation in sustainable building strategies and practices not specifically addressed by LEED for Commercial Interiors.

Comments: This is an opportunity for generating points above and beyond the rating system – new materials or strategies and/or exceptional performance are possible targets.

