



SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
SFI-00001

# HOW TO COUNT YOUR CERTIFIED PAPER PRODUCTS FOR A LEED POINT



The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has a pilot Alternative Compliance Path (ACP) for paper and wood products in its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 2009 and LEED v4 rating systems. Launched in

2016 and aimed at combating the use of illegal wood in LEED certified projects Builders and architects can meet the requirements by choosing paper and wood products certified to the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) (SFI), [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS), [Canadian Standards Association](#) (CSA) and [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC) standards in addition to those mentioned in the original credit language.

**Label your products with the SFI logo to help make it easy for architects and builders to identify that the wood or paper is certified to the SFI standard to be eligible to earn a LEED point.**

## WHAT IS AN ACP?

An Alternative Compliance Path allows LEED projects to achieve an existing green building credit, using an alternative approach to what is specified in the existing rating tool.

A pilot ACP is used to test and work out any kinks with the new pathway. If the ACP pilot credit is adopted, it will become part of the LEED rating system.

The Alternative Compliance Path categorizes the various forest certification standards based on the [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#) standard which is titled “Categorizing Wood and Wood-Based Products According to Their Fiber Sources.” ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) International is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards. They’ve published over 12,000 ASTM standards that are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance health and safety, strengthen market access and trade, and build consumer confidence.

In order to count towards a LEED point, the user must ensure that the following requirements are met (as they are defined by the ASTM D7612-10 standard):

- 100% of the forest products are from legal (non-controversial) sources, and
- 70% from responsible sources, and
- Once these two thresholds are met, the certified sources as evidenced by a chain of custody certification (CoC) can count towards the point.

SFI Fiber Sourcing certification counts as legal and responsible, while forest products delivered through a CoC certification counts as legal, responsible and certified sources.

The Alternative Compliance Path applies to the following credits in LEED v4 and LEED 2009 systems.

#### LEED 2009

- Certified Wood (BD+C and ID+C)
- Sustainable Purchasing—facility alterations and additions (O+M)
- Sustainable purchasing— ongoing consumables (O+M)

#### LEED v4

- Building product disclosure and optimization—sourcing of raw materials (BD+C and ID+C)
- Purchasing—facility maintenance and renovation (O+M)
- Environmentally Preferable Products (BD+C: Homes)
- Purchasing—ongoing (O+M)

The ASTM standard defines three sourcing categories that USGBC uses:

1. legal (non-controversial)
2. responsible sources
3. certified sources

Below is a chart that highlights the various categories and what counts towards the credit. It's important to note that LEED v4 and LEED 2009 use different accounting methods which are explained in detail on pages 2-4. The below chart is also found on LEED's website in their [credit calculator](#).



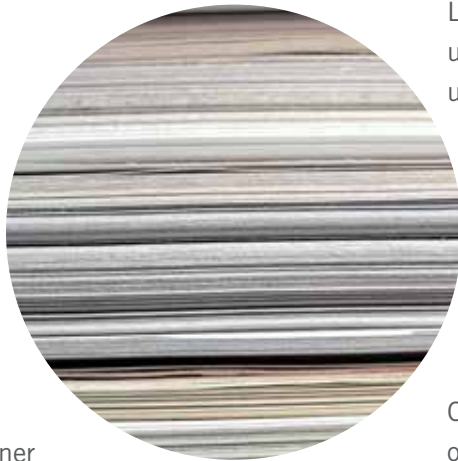
FOREST CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND SOURCING CATEGORIES PER ASTM D7612-10			
PROGRAM NAME	Legal (non-controversial) Compliant?	Responsible Sources Compliant?	Certified Sources Compliant? (CoC)
<b>Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)</b>			
• Forest Management (via SFI or PEFC CoC certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• SFI Fiber Sourcing certificate	Yes	Yes	No
<b>American Tree Farm System (ATFS)</b>			
• Forest Management (via SFI or PEFC CoC certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Canadian Standards Association (CSA)</b>			
• Forest Management (via SFI or PEFC CoC certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)</b>			
• Forest Management (via PEFC chain of custody certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• PEFC Due Diligence System	Yes	No	No
<b>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)</b>			
• Forest Management (via FSC chain of custody certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• FSC Controlled Wood certificate	Yes	No	No

## LEED V4 USING O+M AS AN EXAMPLE

USGBC released LEED v4 in 2013 and it will replace LEED 2009 in October 31, 2016. LEED v4 takes a more holistic approach than the LEED 2009 system. The intent of the “ongoing purchasing of consumables” is to “reduce environmental harm from materials used in the operations and maintenance of buildings.”

In order to qualify for a credit under the “Purchasing-Ongoing” credit in LEED v4, a building must purchase at least 60%, by cost, of total ongoing consumables that meet at least one of the following criteria.

- **Postconsumer recycled content.** The content of purchases must meet or exceed the levels listed in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.
- **Extended Use.** Batteries must be rechargeable. Toner cartridges for laser printers must be remanufactured.
- **Sustainable agriculture.** Food and beverages must be labeled USDA Organic, Food Alliance Certified, Rainforest Alliance Certified, Protected Harvest Certified, Fair Trade, or Marine Stewardship Council’s Blue Eco-Label, Canada Organic logo in accordance with Organic Products Regulations (SOR/2009-176) or labeled with the European Community Organic Production logo in accordance with Regulations (EC) No. 834/2007 and (EC) No. 889/2008.
- **Local sourcing of food and beverages.** The food or beverage must contain raw materials harvested and produced within 100 miles (160 kilometers) of the site.
- **Bio-based materials.** Bio-based products must meet the Sustainable Agriculture Network’s Sustainable Agriculture Standard. Bio-based raw materials must be tested using ASTM Test Method D6866 and be



legally harvested, as defined by the exporting and receiving country. Exclude hide products, such as leather and other animal skin material.

- **Paper and wood products.** Paper and wood products must be sourced from “legal,” “responsible,” and “certified” sources as defined by [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#)

For purposes of SFI recognition, paper products certified to the SFI standards under the “paper and wood products” criteria contribute to the 60%, by cost, of total ongoing consumables to earn a credit under LEED v4. The applicant must first know that: products under the “wood products” criteria to achieve a point under LEED v4. The builder or architect must first know that:

- 100% (with a de minimis amount) of all paper purchased for the building is from legal (non-controversial) sources, and
- 70% of all paper purchased for the building is from responsible sources.

Once the above two criteria are met, then the building owner or operator must purchase paper from certified sources through a CoC. This can then count towards the final requirement which is:

- At least 60% (based on cost) of all purchased total ongoing consumables meet at least one of the ongoing consumables criteria listed above.

To calculate an example, if the total spend for ongoing consumables is \$10,000, the building owner or operator must buy at least \$6,000 (60% of the total value) worth of ongoing consumables that meet at least one of the 6 ongoing consumables criteria.

The next page shows a chart that offers an example of how this credit might be calculated.

**LEED V4 CREDIT CALCULATIONS**  
**CALCULATING IF THE PAPER PRODUCTS CAN COUNT TOWARDS THE ONGOING CONSUMABLES CREDIT**  
 (example for comparison purposes)

	PRODUCT TYPE	COST	SOURCING	LEGAL SOURCES (MUST BE 100%)	RESPONSIBLE SOURCES (MUST BE 70%)	CERTIFIED SOURCES (COC)
Product 1	Copy paper	\$1,500	SFI Forest Management via SFI CoC	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Product 2	Bath tissue - 100% Post-consumer	\$500	PEFC Recycled via PEFC CoC	\$500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Product 3	Bath tissue	\$500	SFI Fiber Sourcing	\$500	\$ 500	\$-
Product 4	Paper Towels	\$750	FSC Forest Management via FSC CoC	\$750	\$750	\$750
Product 5	Sticky notes	\$250	ATFS Forest Management via SFI CoC	\$250	\$250	\$250
Product 6	Paper Towels- 100% Postconsumer	\$1000	SFI Recycled via SFI CoC	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Product 7	Copy paper	\$500	FSC – controlled wood	\$500	\$-	\$-
Product 8	Notebooks	\$250	SFI Fiber Sourcing	\$250	\$250	\$-
Total		\$6,250		<b>\$6,250 (100%)</b>	<b>\$5,750 (92%)</b>	<b>\$5,000 (80%)</b>

\*CoC = Chain of Custody

**VALUE OF ELIGIBLE “CERTIFIED” WOOD THAT CAN COUNT TOWARDS THE CREDIT**

**LEED V4 CREDIT CALCULATIONS**  
**CALCULATING THE ONGOING CONSUMABLES CREDIT**  
 (example for comparison purposes)

Total purchase of all ongoing consumables	\$10,000
Value of non-paper products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria	\$3,450
Value of eligible “certified” paper products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria	<b>\$5,000</b>
Total value of all eligible products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria	\$8,450
% value of all eligible products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria vs total value of all purchased ongoing consumables.	85% (meets the 60% test)
Credits Achieved under LEED v4 “ongoing consumables” credit	1

## LEED 2009 USING O+M AS AN EXAMPLE

LEED 2009 is being phased out and being replaced by the newer LEED v4. However, the building owner or operator can still submit a project under LEED 2009, but they must register their project by October 31, 2016. If the project is registered on or before this date, the building owner or operator has until June 30, 2021 to complete their project under LEED 2009.

In order to qualify for a credit under the “Sustainable Purchasing-Ongoing Consumables” credit in LEED 2009, a building owner or operator must purchase **at least 60%** (based on cost) of total purchases that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Purchases contain at least 10% postconsumer and/or 20% postindustrial material.
- Purchases contain at least 50% rapidly renewable materials.
- Purchases contain at least 50% materials harvested and processed or extracted and processed within 500 miles of the project.
- Purchases consist of at least 50% sourced from “legal,” “responsible,” and “certified” sources as defined by [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#)
- Batteries are rechargeable.

For purposes of SFI recognition, a building owner or operator can use SFI certified paper products under the “Purchases consist of at least 50% sourced from “Certified” sources as defined by [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#)” criteria to achieve a point under LEED v4. The building owner or operator must first know that:

- 100% (with a de minimis amount) of all paper purchased for the building is from legal (non-controversial) sources, and
- 70% of all paper purchased for the building is from responsible sources.

Once the above two criteria are met, then the building owner or operator must purchase at least 50% of their paper from certified sources through a CoC. This can then count towards the final requirement which is:

- At least 60% (based on cost) of all purchased total ongoing consumables meet at least one of the ongoing consumables criteria listed above.

To calculate an example, if the total spend for ongoing consumables is \$10,000, the building owner or operator must buy at least \$6,000 (60% of the total value) worth of ongoing consumables that meet one of the 5 ongoing consumables criteria.

Note, each purchase can receive credit for each sustainable criterion met (i.e., a \$100 purchase that contains both 10% postconsumer recycled content and 50% “Certified” sources as defined by [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#) counts twice in the calculation, for a total of \$200 of sustainable purchasing).

The next page shows a chart that offers an example of how this credit might be calculated.



**LEED 2009 CREDIT CALCULATIONS**

**CALCULATING IF THE PAPER PRODUCTS CAN COUNT TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING – ONGOING CONSUMABLES CREDIT**

(example for comparison purposes)

	PRODUCT TYPE	COST	SOURCING	LEGAL SOURCES	RESPONSIBLE SOURCES	CERTIFIED SOURCES
Product 1	Copy paper	\$1,500	SFI Forest Management via SFI CoC	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Product 2	Bath tissue - 100% Post-consumer	\$500	PEFC Recycled via PEFC CoC	\$500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Product 3	Bath tissue	\$500	SFI Fiber Sourcing	\$500	\$ 500	\$-
Product 4	Paper Towels	\$750	FSC Forest Management via FSC CoC	\$750	\$750	\$750
Product 5	Sticky notes	\$250	ATFS Forest Management via SFI Chain of Custody	\$250	\$250	\$250
Product 6	Paper Towels- 30% Postconsumer	\$1000	SFI Recycled via SFI CoC	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Product 7	Copy paper	\$500	FSC – controlled wood	\$500	\$-	\$-
Product 8	Notebooks	\$250	SFI Fiber Sourcing	\$250	\$250	\$-
Total		\$6,250		<b>\$6,250 (100%)</b>	<b>\$5,750 (92%)</b>	<b>\$5,000 (80%)</b>

\*CoC = Chain of Custody

**VALUE OF ELIGIBLE “CERTIFIED” WOOD THAT CAN COUNT TOWARDS THE CREDIT**

**LEED 2009 CREDIT CALCULATIONS**

**CALCULATING THE SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING - ONGOING CONSUMABLES CREDIT**

(example for comparison purposes)

Total purchase of all ongoing consumables	\$10,000
Value of non-paper products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria	\$3,450
Value of eligible “certified” paper products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria	<b>\$5,000</b>
Total value of all eligible products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria	\$8,450
% value of all eligible products that meet the ongoing consumables criteria vs total value of all purchased ongoing consumables.	85% (meets the 60% test)
Credits Achieved under LEED 2009 “Sustainable Purchasing-Ongoing Consumables” credit	1



**BETTER CHOICES FOR THE PLANET**

