

LEED and UPM ProFi Products

March 2014

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a recognized third party green building certification system. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED serves as a tool for buildings of all types and sizes, including new constructions, existing buildings, commercial interiors, core and shell, schools, retail, healthcare, homes and neighborhood development.

LEED certification is being increasingly used outside the USA. There are LEED credit categories, where building projects earn LEED points for satisfying specific environmental criteria. The key areas are:

- Sustainable Sites,
- Water Efficiency,
- Energy and Atmosphere,
- Material and Resources,
- Indoor Environmental Quality,
- Innovation and Design and Regional Priority, Building projects can earn 100 available points, plus 10 bonus credits. To be certificated, a project must satisfy all prerequisites and a minimum number of points.

LEED applies to green building projects not individual products. However products and materials can contribute to points under the certification system. LEED need to identify products that have environmental attributes.

***UPM ProFi** wood plastic composite is a unique material that combines the best characteristics of wood fibers and plastic. Manufactured mainly from recycled raw material, the composite has proven to be tough and humidity resistant.*

*The principle ingredients for **UPM ProFi** are recycled paper and plastic which are manufacturing surplus from UPM's self-adhesive label stock production. **UPM ProFi** is an environmentally sustainable material, which can be disposed of through incineration or recycled back into the production process.*

*Based on UPM's own research and business development, the recycled and further recyclable wood plastic composite **UPM ProFi** is an example of UPM's innovative thinking and total lifecycle approach.*

Because of these properties **UPM ProFi** qualifies well for LEED credits under the different LEED green building rating systems. Following points are in contribution to LEED requirement:

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Material and Resources

- **MRc2.1/2.2: “construction waste management”**. Material which can be diverted from disposal has to be identified for these LEED criteria. The intent is to redirect recyclable products back to the manufacturing process (50 % resp. 75 %). UPM ProFi can be recycled back into the manufacturing process or for energy.
- **MRc4.1/4.2: “Recycling Content: 10 % resp. 20 % (post-consumer + ½ pre-consumer)”**. The requirement is to use 10 % or 20 % of the total material costs for post-consumer and pre-consumer recycled content. A project can even get an additional point for exemplary performance if 30 % of the total material cost is recycling content. **UPM ProFi** contains more than 50 % recycled material. It may be an excellent product for experts when choosing from green products that contribute towards LEED categories.
- **MRc5.1/5.2: “Regional Material (extruded, processed and manufactured regionally)”**: A project gets one or two points, if 10 % resp. 20 % of the total material is part of materials and products which are produced within 500 miles (805 km) of project site. **UPM ProFi** is produced in Lahti, Finland, and Bruchsal, Germany. So distances from mill to many sites in whole Europe are small.
- **(MRc7) “certified wood credit”** which is reserved for certificated wood products. **UPM ProFi** has the PEFC certification.

Innovation in Design

- There are one to four available credit points in the LEED category “Innovation in Design”. **UPM ProFi** may also help to gain recognition in this category by using it for an exceptional and creative performance. **UPM ProFi** achieved the “Green Good Design Award 2010” and UPM awarded “Best Innovator” prize for sustainable innovation management in Germany.

All in all **UPM ProFi** can play a big part in contributing to make building projects LEED conform.

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