



## UNIVERSAL TEXTILE TECHNOLOGIES OUTLINES LEED CERTIFICATION QUALIFIERS

Demand has grown rapidly for building materials that fulfill the requirements of the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The benchmark certification program for green building projects and buildings that carry the LEED seal of approval are a statement of environmentally-conscious practices. In addition, studies show that energy-efficient LEED buildings cost less to operate, have higher occupancy rates, enhance occupant health and well-being and increase investment returns compared to their non-LEED counterparts.

A project's total LEED point score determines whether the project qualifies for LEED, and if so, which of the three levels of certification it will achieve. Buildings that earn 40-49 points qualify for the Certified LEED level. Silver level requires 50-59 points, 60-79 are needed for Gold, and Platinum projects must earn at least 80 points.

Though desirable, the LEED certification process, with its complex formulas and calculations, takes considerable commitment and planning on the part of architects and designers. Understandably, green product manufacturers strive to provide accurate and concise information to the building community about their products' LEED-worthy attributes.

### **Earning LEED Points for Carpet and Synthetic Turf Backed with BioCel™ and EnviroCel™**

Many end users were early adopters of environmentally conscious products and practices. A prime example of this environmental initiative is found in BioCel™ and EnviroCel™ performance polyurethane backing systems for carpets and synthetic turf. Developed by Dalton, GA based Universal Textile Technologies, many BioCel™ and EnviroCel™ backings consist of a highly-refined mineral compound recycled from previously mined calcium, polymers created from natural oils, a rapidly renewable resource, and post consumer content.

Certain UTT backings may contribute to LEED totals, check the USBC guidelines for the latest regulations.

## **Potential areas for consideration - MATERIALS & RESOURCES**

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### **Post-Consumer**

Levels of post-consumer content may contribute additional points towards LEED certification.

### **Recovered Materials**

Certain materials may qualify under recovered material content.

### **Rapidly Renewable Materials**

To qualify for this credit, 5% of the total value of all building materials and products used in the project (based on cost) must come from materials made from plants that are typically harvested within a ten-year cycle or shorter. certain UTT backing systems contain soy-based renewable biobased technology. This may contribute toward leed calculations in certain environments.

## **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System represents the U.S. Green Building Council's effort to provide a national standard for what constitutes a "green building". It is utilized as a design guideline and certification tool for architects and designers seeking to develop high-performance, sustainable buildings.

LEED is designed to guide and distinguish high-performance projects. The rating system defines the requirements, by category, to achieve each prerequisite and voluntary point. Projects earn one or more points toward certification by meeting or exceeding each credit's technical requirements. Points compute to a final score that relates to one of the four possible levels of certification.

## **Universal Textile Technologies**

Dalton, Georgia based Universal Textile Technologies (UTT) is a pioneer in environmentally conscious technology. The manufacturer supplies the carpet and turf industries with multiple performance backing systems for commercial, hospitality, healthcare and residential use. Recent rulings from the United States Department of Agriculture qualify Universal Textile Technologies' BioCel™ and EnviroCel™ performance polyurethane carpet backing systems for Federal purchasing preference as designated bio-based items under the USDA's BioPreferred program.

## **Summary**

According to the USGBC, the current demand for green buildings is outstripping the available supply. As environmentally responsible building becomes more and more important, not only to the environment, but to the long-term value of commercial property, LEED certification will become more widespread, and the complex vocabulary of codes and credits associated with LEED will work its way into the general contracting lexicon.

This document attempts to explain in simple terms BioCel's and EnviroCel's role in contributing towards LEED project totals. Further information about LEED may be obtained from [www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED).

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