



the sustainability certification program for furniture



What is level®?

level is the sustainability certification program for furniture. It is a multi-attribute evaluation of the environmental and social impacts of furniture products. Products are certified level 1, level 2, or level 3 (3 being the highest certification), by a third-party, independent certifying body that measures compliance with the ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard. All HPFI® products have been certified to level 2 by SCS Global Services.

Can level certified products earn LEED® points?

Currently (as of May 30, 2013), level certified products that have attained the low emitting credit (7.6) in e3, can also contribute to the low-emitting attribute of LEED. BIFMA continues to collaborate with the USGBC and other green rating systems to secure greater recognition of furniture products in the various rating systems.

Key Facts:

- level is to furniture what LEED is to buildings.
- Certification requires a serious effort by manufacturers to measure manufacturing process inputs and outputs, incorporate new material formulations, create design protocols, and formalize corporate actions around social responsibility.
- HPFI is one of only 53 furniture manufactures worldwide with level certified products.
- level offers IDCEC and GBCI accredited CEU training. AIA approval is pending. Currently, Tom Carrigan is accredited by ICDEC to conduct CEU training.
- Not only the product, but also the facility and organization are all scored and can potentially earn points against as many as 42 criteria from four impact areas: Materials, Energy & Atmosphere, Human & Ecosystem Health, and Social Responsibility. Products must meet minimum requirements in each impact area.