



KNIGHT
PREMIUM FLOORING

USGBC LEED®

Product Evaluation

Updated April 7, 2009

KPF LEED Evaluation

INDEX

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page #</u>
<u>KPF LEED Credit Contribution Summary and Matrix</u>	3
<u>Scope and Key Points of KPF LEED Evaluation</u>	4
<u>LEED Background and Frequently Asked Questions</u>	5
What is LEED?	
Who Created LEED?	
How is LEED Developed?	
Are products LEED Certified?	
What is LEED Certification?	
How does LEED determine if the project qualifies for a particular LEED credit?	
<u>KPF LEED Credit Contribution Evaluations</u>	
Project Rating System Evaluations	6
1. New Construction	
2. Commercial Interiors	
3. Core and Shell Development	
<u>LEED Customer Letter Template</u>	7

KPF LEED Evaluation

**KPF
LEED Credit Contribution Summary**

- **KPF manufactured at our Marrero, LA location presently contributes toward four LEED points in the following LEED credit categories.**
- **Two future LEED credit contribution opportunities are being researched.**

LEED Credit	KPF Credit Contribution	LEED Points
*MR 5.1 Regional Materials 10%	Yes	1
*MR 5.2 Regional Materials 20%	Yes	1
EQ 4.1 Low-Emitting Materials: Adhesives	Yes	1
EQ 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials: Resilient Flooring	Yes	1

* LEED Credit MR 5.2 Regional Materials Credit contribution is dependent on the proximity (500 miles) of the LEED building project in relation to the KPF manufacturing location and KPF raw material supply locations.

500 Mile Radius of the KPF Marrero, LA Manufacturing Location.



KPF LEED Evaluation

Scope and Key Points of KPF LEED Evaluation

- This document is intended as an informational tool to address the increasing frequency of LEED questions from the market. KPF personnel are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the LEED information and evaluations in this paper.
- The USGBC LEED website at <http://www.leedbuilding.org> and the LEED New Construction Version 2.2 Reference Guide have provided much of the LEED content for this document.
- The evaluation encompasses KPF quartz floor tile products (Quartz Concepts and QuartzScapes) manufactured at the Marrero, LA location.
- Products are not LEED certified. It is the project that is LEED certified. The cumulative effect of a project's materials, methods and outcomes earn LEED project credit points and gain LEED project certification.
- There are three primary LEED Project Rating Systems, all of which contain similar credit categories.
 1. New Construction/Major Renovation
 2. Commercial Interiors
 3. Core and Shell Development
- LEED questions from the market should be answered in the context of the three primary Rating Systems noted above, unless directed otherwise, since the "other" LEED Rating Systems are in draft or pilot stages.
- KPF primary areas for LEED credit contribution are:
 - MR 5: Materials and Resources: Regional materials extracted, harvested, recovered or mfg'd.
 - MR 6: Materials and Resources: Rapidly renewable materials
 - EQ 4: Indoor Environmental Quality: Low emitting materials
- Future considerations

As the resilient, factory applied, UV cured acrylic sealant is developed and marketed, there may be opportunity for additional LEED credit contribution in areas where reduced floor maintenance plays a factor in water and energy use reduction. We will advise on progress toward possible credit in these two categories.
- Water Efficiency Credit: WE 3 Water Use Reduction
Intent is to maximize water efficiency within buildings to reduce the burden on municipal water supply and waste water systems.
- Energy and Atmosphere Credit: EA 1 Optimize Energy Performance
Intent is to achieve increasing levels of energy performance to reduce environmental and economic impacts associated with excessive energy use.
- A LEED customer letter template has been included with this evaluation. The letter can be readily modified to accommodate particular customers and LEED building projects.

LEED Background and Frequently Asked Questions

What is LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Who created LEED?

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) created LEED. USGBC is a coalition of leaders from sectors of the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. The U.S. Green Building Council's core purpose is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.

How is LEED developed?

The LEED Rating System was created to provide the building industry with consistent, credible standards for what constitutes a green building. The rating system is developed and continuously refined via a consensus-based process.

Are products LEED certified?

Products are not LEED certified. Products contribute to an overall building project's LEED certification. Although USGBC does not certify, promote or endorse products and services of individual companies, products and services do play a role and can help projects with credit achievement.

What is LEED Certification?

The first step to LEED certification is to register the **building project**. To earn certification, a building project must meet certain prerequisites and performance benchmarks ("credits") within each category. Projects are awarded Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification depending on the number of credits they achieve. A LEED project applicant provides the LEED documentation forms and determines what further verification/documentation is needed for products.

How does LEED determine if the project qualifies for a particular LEED credit?

Each LEED Credit has specific calculation instructions to determine if the project qualifies for a LEED Credit. In many cases, LEED credit is calculated by the sum of all product costs associated with a particular LEED Credit, then compared to the overall project cost. The LEED project applicant is responsible for gathering data for these credit determination calculations.

KPF LEED Evaluation

KPF LEED Credit Contribution for the Following Project Rating Systems:

- 1. New Construction/Major Renovation**
- 2. Commercial Interiors (Same credit areas as New Construction)**
- 3. Core and Shell Development (Same credit areas as New Construction)**

Materials and Resources

Credit MR 5.1 Regional Materials 10% of the total value of the building materials in the project

Credit MR 5.2 Regional Materials 20% of the total value of the building materials in the project

Requirement: Use building materials or products that have been extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as, manufactured within 500 miles of the project site.

Rationale: The intent of this credit is to support indigenous resources and reduce the environmental impacts resulting from transportation.

Credit Contribution: Yes, there is some possible credit contribution depending on proximity of the LEED building project in relation to the manufacturing, extraction and harvesting locations. The LEED applicant would need to advise of the building project's location to determine the degree of credit contribution. Credit contribution also includes the relationship of raw materials (and their extraction, harvesting, processing and manufacturing) to the LEED building project.

Credit MR 6 Rapidly Renewable Materials 2.5% of the total value of the building materials in the project

Requirement: Use rapidly renewable building materials and products made from plants (or animals) that are typically harvested within a ten-year cycle or shorter.

Rationale: Sand has been determined to fit this LEED credit category.

Credit Contribution: Yes, there is LEED credit contribution.

Renewable content percentage by weight:

78% of KPF content (sand and soy oil)

Indoor Environmental Quality

Credit EQ 4.1 Low-Emitting Materials: Adhesives

Requirement: All adhesives and sealants used on the interior of the building (defined as inside of the weather proofing system) shall comply with LEED air quality and VOC requirements.

Rationale: KPF adhesive complies with LEED air quality and VOC requirements.

Credit Contribution: Yes, there is full LEED credit contribution.

Credit EQ 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials: Carpets and Resilient Flooring

Requirement: All carpet and resilient flooring used on the interior of the building shall meet the LEED air quality and VOC requirements.

Rationale: KPF is certified under the California High Performance School (CHPS) program, complying with LEED air quality and VOC requirements.

Credit Contribution: Yes, there is LEED credit contribution.

KPF LEED Evaluation

LEED Sample Letter



Date:

Customer Address:

Dear Customer,

Knight Premium Flooring is committed to preserving our natural environment. We manufacture environmentally responsible flooring products. The following is being provided, per your request for LEED information on (Quartz Concepts and/or QuartzScapes) quartz flooring tile manufactured at our Marrero, LA location.

LEED Materials & Resources Credits

MR 5 Regional Materials

There is possible credit contribution depending on proximity of the LEED building project in relation to the KPF manufacturing location and KPF raw material supply locations.

MR 6 Rapidly Renewable Materials

KPF contains 78% rapidly renewable material content.

LEED Environmental Quality Credits

EQ 4.1 Low-Emitting Materials: Adhesives

KPF adhesive complies with air quality and VOC requirements for LEED credit contribution.

EQ 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials: Resilient Flooring

KPF is certified under the California High Performance School (CHPS) program, complying with air quality and VOC requirements for LEED credit contribution.

Thank you for using Knight Premium Flooring. Please advise if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Title)

Knight Premium Flooring