



There's always a solution in steel.

Steel is the LEEDer



The inside and outside of Heifer International's 95,000 sq. ft. LEED-Certified Headquarters in Little Rock, AR. The steel structure offered local manufacturing and 97% recycled content. (www.heifer.org).

You may have heard about the US Green Building Council's LEED rating system for construction projects. It seems like every day we read or hear about new building projects 'going green' and being members of the steel industry we can be proud of the material we promote and build with.

So, what is LEED®?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. 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.

LEED-certified buildings:

- Lower operating costs and increased asset value.
- Reduce waste sent to landfills.
- Conserve energy and water.
- Healthier and safer for occupants.
- Reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- Qualify for tax rebates, zoning allowances and other incentives in hundreds of cities.
- Demonstrate an owner's commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

LEED is a points based system and in order for a building to be LEED certified, the project must gain a minimum of 26 points. Points are not easy to qualify for and project owners must make critical and informed decisions at every stage of the design if they are to achieve the LEED rating they desire. Using a structural steel frame is an obvious and easy decision to make due to its very high recycled content. In fact, the use of a steel frame often helps project owners get an immediate two points just in the 'Recycled Content' category.

Additionally, depending on the nature of the building's design, using steel can be a strategic decision toward gaining additional LEED points in the areas of Building Reuse (3 pts), Construction Waste Management (2 pts), Resource Reuse (2 pts), Local/Regional Materials (2 pts) and Innovation (up to 4 pts).

Much of this information was taken from the USGBC's web site. You can read more about LEED and USGBC at www.usgbc.org.



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American Institute of Steel Construction
One East Wacker Drive, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60601

312.670.2400 www.aisc.org