AIA Materials Pledge Action Guide
Appendix

Building Material Resources Overview

Building material impacts are a vast and quickly evolving matter. The intent of this document is to direct design professionals to a variety of resources that can help enhance commitments to the AIA Materials Pledge and make it easier to make intentional and holistically responsible material decisions.

Resources are categorized as 1. Material Impact Tools and Guidance, 2. Product Research and Workflow Tools, and 3. Product Certification and Disclosure Databases.

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Five Impact Categories of the AIA Materials Pledge and Common Materials Framework

Material Impact Tools and Guidance

Resources in this category are best for elevating knowledge on building material impacts and strategies, finding baselines and benchmarks for product assessment, and learning how to integrate the Common Materials Framework (CMF) into firm and project workflows.

Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**CMF Implementation Toolkit** *mindful MATERIALS (mM)*	mindfulmaterials.com/cmf-implementation-toolkit	• CMF intent and how to get involved in the movement • Standard language and graphics for CMF endorsement • Firm material requirement development or refinement	The *CMF Implementation Toolkit* (launch at Greenbuild 2025) includes endorsement language for consistent CMF messaging, refreshed resources such as CMF 101 videos and guidance for integrating an open-source Data Schema into firm tools and workflows, guidance for building and aligning firm material programs that align with the CMF, and more.	• Industry-wide endorsement of the CMF and aligning firm material criteria to the CMF is critical to accelerate towards a sustainable and regenerative building materials economy. • All stakeholders in the built environment are invited to formally partner with mindful MATERIALS and can start the conversation by reaching out to outreach@mindfulmaterials.com.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**Building Product Selection & Procurement Criteria Areas & Achievement Levels in LEED v5** *U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)*	usgbc.org/resources/leed-v5-bpsp-criteria-areas-and-achievement-levels	• Certifications and disclosures mapped to the Materials Pledge and CMF impact categories • Basic (level 1) vs more advanced (level 2 or 3) criteria for each impact • Market maturity variation between impact categories	The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) sets a new standard for sustainable building through LEED v5. LEED v5 combines the LEED v4/v4.1 Environmental Product Declarations, Sourcing of Raw Materials, and Material Ingredients credits, and Circular Products and Social Equity Within the Supply Chain Pilot credits into a single Building Product Selection & Procurement (BPSP) credit. The BPSP credit is designed to align with the five impact categories of the Materials Pledge and CMF, which it refers to as five Criteria Areas. The BPSP resource outlines eligible product documentation and contribution values for each of the five Criteria Areas, and three levels of performance thresholds for each Criteria Area.	• A calculator will be available for LEED documentation, but could be used for non-LEED projects' Materials Pledge tracking. • Some performance thresholds are still under development and may be added in future LEED addenda. Follow the link provided rather than downloading a PDF to ensure you are referencing the latest version.
Primary Impact: Human Health Secondary Impacts: Climate Health Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**Healthy Materials Lab Materials Collections** *Parson's Healthy Materials Lab (HML)*	healthymaterialslab.org/material-collections	• Healthier products vetted by affordable and public housing project teams • Innovative biobased products made from materials like eelgrass, flax, algae, seaweed, hemp, and fungi	The Healthy Materials Lab (HML) is a design research lab at Parsons School of Design in New York City. Products in the HML online Healthier Building Products Collection disclose a minimum of 75% of ingredients by weight and avoid the most significant health concerns. Critical to their evaluation process is the impact of materials on human and environmental health throughout their lifecycle. The Healthy and Regenerative Collections include materials that originate from ecological sources. Combined with current technology, these materials can produce durable, high-performing, and regenerative building products. Ideally, materials biodegrade at the end of their useful life and benefit ecosystems and all living things. Additional themed collections include Low Embodied Carbon Materials, Healthier Millwork and Cabinetry, Healthier Affordable Building Products, and Healthier Model-Making Materials.	• The Donghia Healthier Materials Library is a resource center of physical samples at Parsons in New York City. Appointments to visit the library may be requested by external guests outside of Parsons faculty and students by emailing MaterialLibrary@newschool.edu. • HML offers an online certificate program that provides an in-depth introduction to material health, sustainability, and circular design strategies: healthymaterialslab.org/courses/sustainable-building-certificate-program
Primary Impact: Human Health Secondary Imacts: Climate Health Ecosystem Health	**Informed Product Guidance** *Habitable*	informed.habitablefuture.org/product-guidance	• Worst-in-class product types to avoid early in design • Evidence and graphics to support recommendations for healthier materials to clients	Habitable (formerly known as the Healthy Building Network or HBN) works to develop tools and resources to empower the industry to make and choose safer products. Informed™ Product Guidance is designed to help quickly and confidently choose better building products. It ranks product types within a product category from red-to-green; worst-in-class to best-in-class. For example, under the Flooring product category Linoleum is green and Vinyl Floors is red. This intuitive ranking system compiles decades of comprehensive research about the health impacts of chemicals throughout product life cycles. The guidance encourages teams to "step up from red" as a critical first move. Next, it encourages teams to try to prefer product types ranked yellow and green.	• The guidance includes 18 or more product categories. Habitable encourages industry feedback on which product categories to tackle next. • Habitable is working on additional tools to integrate the Informed Product Guidance into designer workflows, such as an Informed Revit Plug-in. • An Informed Assessment Form excel spreadsheet is available to download on the Habitable website to help track product assessment and decision making: informed.habitablefuture.org/assessment
Primary Impact: Human Health Secondary Impact: Climate Health	**Harvard Healthier Materials** *Harvard Healthier Building Academy*	healthybuildings.hsph.harvard.edu/research/materials/	• Articles, case studies and tools informed by extensive reseearch focused on human health and wellbeing	The Harvard Healthier Building Academy is dedicated to supporting the design, build, and operation of healthier buildings. For more than a decade it has prioritized demanding transparency and avoiding the entire class of forever chemicals (and other known toxic chemicals). Harvard's healthier materials research has informed standards used on more than 50 capital projects across Harvard, covering 5 million square feet of real estate. The research and case studies offer real world success stories and lessons learned.	• Harvard started their chemicals of concern avoidance journey with flame retardants, PFAS, and antimicrobials because they are often added to the layer of products humans are exposed to, and because they are often not necessary for the product to function as needed. • Stand on the shoulders of Harvard's extensive research and advocacy for healthier materials to increase demand and build a return on investment.
Primary Impact: Human Health Secondary Impact: Ecosystem Health	**Six Classes** *Green Science Policy Institute (GSPI)*	sixclasses.org/	• Chemical of concern elimination through a class-based approach • Chemicals of concern to avoid for certain product types • Specific health impacts of different chemicals of concern • Inspiring action through short videos	The Green Science Policy Insitute (GSPI) is a team of scientists and policy experts who develop and communicate peer-reviewed research about chemicals of concern. Over 40,0000 chemicals are used in commerce, but less than 10% have been studied for human health effects. Since many chemicals of concern fall into six classes (PFAS, antimicrobials, flame retardants, bisphenols and phthalates, some solvents, and certain metals) the GSPI developed a class-based approach for more efficient decision making. The Six Classes approach allows us to better understand these families of harmful chemicals, their functions, where they are used, and how they can be avoided. This approach can prevent a cycle of “regrettable substitution,” whereby a phased out harmful chemical is replaced with a closely related “chemical cousin” which is likely to cause similar harm.	• Communicating specific health harms of certain products to clients, such as cancer, lower IQ in children, and hormone disruption, may help convey the value of specifying a healthier alternative. • Six 4-minute videos are available on the GSPI website for a succinct summary of each of the six classes of chemicals of concern, particularly for audiences not as familiar with material health: sixclasses.org/videos

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Building Material Resources Overview

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Resources are categorized as 1. Material Impact Tools and Guidance, 2. Product Research and Workflow Tools, and 3. Product Certification and Disclosure Databases.

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Five Impact Categories of the AIA Materials Pledge and Common Materials Framework

Material Impact Tools and Guidance (Continued)

Resources in this category are best for elevating knowledge on building material impacts and strategies, finding baselines and benchmarks for product assessment, and learning how to integrate the Common Materials Framework (CMF) into firm and project workflows.

Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impact: Human Health Secondary Impact: Social Health + Equity	**WELL Building Standard v2 Materials Concept and Features** *International WELL Building Institute (IWBI)*	v2.wellcertified.com/en/wellv2/materials	• Material ingredient transparency documentation types and enhanced disclosure examples • Material ingredient optimization documentation types with enhanced chemical restrictions • Chemicals of concern to avoid for certain product types	The International WELL Building Insitute designed the WELL Building Standard as a roadmap for creating and certifying spaces that advance human health and wellbeing. The WELL Building Standard v2 addresses 10 key concepts, one of which is Materials. The WELL Materials concept aims to reduce human exposure, whether direct or through environmental contamination, to chemicals that may impact health during the construction, remodeling, furnishing and operation of buildings. It includes "features" (similar to credits for LEED) with criteria that can be used to guide projects to support human health even if they aren't pursuing WELL Certification.	• Find scientific evidence to support WELL criteria under the References section for each feature. • The WELL v2 Building Standard now includes a Fair Labor in Building Products feature in beta.
Primary Impact: Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Circular Economy	**2025 Carbon Leadership Forum Material Baselines Report** *Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF)*	carbonleadershipforum.org/2025-clf-north-american-material-baselines/	• Embodied carbon (GWP) baselines for product comparison • Default embodied carbon (GWP) intensity values for project- or assembly-scale modeling	The 2025 CLF North American Material Baselines project builds upon previous CLF Material Baselines reports which provides the industry with embodied carbon emissions baselines for materials in the North American Market. This report aims to support decision-makers by providing a methodology for categorizing products for appropriate embodied carbon comparisons, collecting and processing embodied carbon data from EPDs, and assessing data sources for their industry representativeness and estimating industry-average embodied carbon values (i.e. “baselines”) per product type. For a variety of product categories it provides a “state of EPDs” snapshot of North American construction product EPD GWP data and a set of CLF baseline GWP values that represent an estimate of industry-average GHG emissions for construction materials manufactured in North America.	• Additional resources by the Carbon Leadership Forum include toolkits, research publications and policy advocacy. Within the Policy Toolkit are various Fact Sheets, as well as an Embodied Carbon Policy Tracking Map: carbonleadershipforum.org/clf-policy-toolkit/
Primary Impact: Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Circular Economy	**EC3 Tool** *Building Transparency*	buildingtransparency.org/tools/ec3/	• Material comparisons based on supply chain-specific EPD data • Project potential and realized embodied carbon emissions	The mission of Building Transparency is to provide the open data and tools needed to inspire actions that positively impact our world. The EC3 Tool enables carbon smart choices during material specification and procurement. It is the only free and open-access global embodied carbon accounting tool. EC3 houses building material quantities from your BIM models, construction estimates or as-builts, and a robust digital third-party Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) database.	• Collaborate with structural engineers to use EC3 to find local concrete plants with EPDs and engage these companies in project concrete specification refinements to maximize embodied carbon reduction. • EPDs come from a variety of Program Operators (POs) that manage the process of developing and publishing EPDs. Examples of POs are EPD International, UL, SCS Global Services, ASTM, and NSF. Many POs manage their own database of EPDs but EC3 is a robust aggregation of EPDs from different POs.
Primary Impact: Social Health + Equity Secondary Impacts: Climate Health Circular Economy	**Design for Freedom International Guidance & Toolkit** *Grace Farms Foundation*	designforfreedom.org/home/design-for-freedom-international-guidance-toolkit/	• Social health and equity language such as ethical decarbonization, supply chain technology, and tier 1, 2, and 3 supplier defintions • The what, where, and why of various materials at-risk for forced labor • Company and product level standards and certification types that consider labor practices	The Design for Freedom (DFF) movement brings industry leaders together to eliminate forced labor in the building materials supply chain, create true market transformation, and build a more equitable future. The DFF International Guidance & Toolkit brings together social health and equity, climate health, and circular economy through three core principles: 1. Find and Address Embedded Forced Labor, 2. Pursue Ethical Decarbonization, and 3. Prioritize Circularity. It outlines at-risk materials, including bricks, concrete, glass, metals, minerals, paints and dyes, polysilicon and solar panels, PVC, rubber, stone, textiles, and timber, among other helpful information for understanding the reality of forced labor in building material supply chains and steps designers can take to avoid materials made with forced labor.	• The toolkit includes graphics that can be helpful when presenting to clients on why this work is important and the opportunity to influence positive change on a project. • DFF has a Pilot program to help facilitate supply chain research and share lessons learned with the industry. Case studies from the past few years of pilot projects are available on the DFF website: designforfreedom.org/home/pilot-projects/case-studies-pilot-projects/
Primary Impact: Circular Economy	**All For Reuse Ecosystem Map** *All For Reuse*	allforreuse.org/ecosystem-map	• Salvaged, used, or refabricated building materials • Finding contractors with deconstruction expertise • Connecting with industry leaders and creating partnerships	All For Reuse is a network of building professionals committed to the reuse of commercial building materials. The All For Reuse Ecosystem Map connects the dots across the design and construction industry. It overlays various circularity opportunities on a map of North America including salvaged material suppliers, deconstruction companies, hauling and warehousing logistics entities, jurisdictions with circularity policies, networking resources, manufacturer take-back and recycling programing, workforce training and education programs, and more. These resources can help spread awareness on the maturity of a circular economy infrastructure and unlock partnership opportunities across the continent to advance circularity.	• The Policy Tracker is a helpful resource for understanding which cities across North America are addressing sustainable management of building materials. • Reach out to manufacturers with extended producer responsibility programs, such as take-back or recycling programs, to understand parameters of their program such as minimum quantities to participate.

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Five Impact Categories of the AIA Materials Pledge and Common Materials Framework

Product Research and Workflow Tools

Resources in this category are best for accessing product sustainability information in one place and organized through the mindfulMATERIALS Common Materials Framework (CMF). Each tool offers a unique approach to streamlining product research, tracking, and reporting while also evolving to support organization-level and/or project-level workflows.

Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**2025 Data Ecosystem Report** *mindful MATERIALS*	mindfulmaterials.com/2025-data-ecosystem-report-summary	• Data Ecosystem introduction • Connected data importance to accelerating towards a regenerative building materials economy • Understanding workflow tools' role in a connected Data Ecosystem • Design firm investment, advocacy, and action opportunities	The mindful MATERIALS 2025 Data Ecosystem Report outlines how an industry-wide connected Data Ecosystem is necessary to enable informed material decisions efficiently and effectively. This ecosystem is a digital system for moving material sustainability data from source to point of decision and action. The development of this solution to an industry-wide problem requires a pre-competetive convening of stakeholders to find open-source, neutral, and scalable solutions; and it requires funding. The report provides a clear overview of the current market realities of a Data Ecosystem, including barriers and possible solutions, and different ways that firms can invest and take action.	• Whether immediate or gradual, a shift from product data collection via static email correspondence, PDF form, or spreadsheet to the use of tech platforms that are embedding the CMF is encouraged. • All stakeholders in the built environment are invited to formally partner with mindful MATERIALS and can start the conversation by reaching out to outreach@mindfulmaterials.com.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**AceLab Materials Hub** *AceLab*	acelabusa.com/	• Product performance, aesthetic, and other information in addition to sustainability • Product comparisons • Product sustainability data organized by impact category • Project material schedules organization and collaboration • Building firm product libraries	Acelab is advertised as a a decision-making platform to integrate materials research, selection, and documentation. It was designed to support product data and workflow tools beyond sustainability specific information, but is working to connect CMF data points to products beginning with product certifications.	• Built on a foundation of overall product data management and workflow tools rather than a sustainability focus. • Customizable color coded product tags. Think: office locations, practice areas or studios, client basis-of-design, internal "red list", internal "green list", chemical of concern avoidance, etc. Product list views can be generated by tag. • Correspondence with AceLab Architectural Experience representatives and Manufacturers can be tracked within the platform to avoid the need to manage via email. • AI reader may be available for streamlining creation of firm and project materials lists. • The AceLab Executive Chairman is the former CEO of Revit. Revit Integration for supporting better decision making where many design professionals work is in development and may be available.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**BuildingEase** *BuildingEase*	buildingease.com/	• Product performance, aesthetic, and other information in addition to sustainability • Some product sustainability data in a format that directly aligns with the CMF • Project material schedules organization and collaboration • Building firm product libraries • CMF standards setting and automated vetting	BuildingEase is advertised as a comprehensive solution for managing building materials from design to installation, streamlining workflows and enhancing collaboration. It is designed to support product data and workflows beyond sustainability specific information, but advancements in support of the CMF are driving the platform's evolution.	• BuildingEase is the first tech platform to digitize the CMF by creating a manufacturer survey that asks about each data point in the CMF Prioritization v1.0. • A unique and potentially helpful filter is the Review Rating. Users are given the option to write product reviews and rate the product from one to five stars. Other users can search products by rating. • Some product types seem to be included multiple times within the database and distinguishing the difference between them may be difficult without deep understanding of the associated documentation types. • Manufacturer "Storefronts" are product representatives' space to support designers on ordering samples, organizing CEUs, and sharing case studies in addition to being the place for accessing digitized CMF data.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**Ecomedes** *Ecomedes*	products.ecomedes.com/	• Quickly starting product searches by impact area addressed • Quickly starting product searches by LEED, WELL, Living Future, and Green Globes rating system contribution • Project material schedules organization and collaboration	Ecomedes is advertised as a platform for automating sustainability compliance. It was designed specifically to aggregate sustainability data in one place so that products can be evaluated in seconds instead of days. It excels as a product database platform and is working to increase workflow features.	• Ecomedes was the tech platform powering the (now sunset) mindful MATERIALS (mM) portal. All product and project data in the mM portal was migrated to the Ecomedes platform. • The PFAS Addressed filter is a great shortcut for understanding which certifications and standards address PFAS. However, it is recommended that you also research the specific certification or standard because the way in which they address PFAS varies. • The Credit Evaluation tool creates reports with product sustainability data organized by the CMF or rating system contributions, and reports can easily be downloaded to PDF. • Search results may vary by zipcode input. This can be helpful for product types like gypsum that have compositions that vary by factory location, but may mean you are not seeing the full scope of manufacturer options.

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Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Circular Economy Secondary Impact: Ecosystem Health	**Green Badger ($)** *Green Badger*	getgreenbadger.com/	• Streamlining LEED construction credit tracking • Environmental Product Declarations and embodied carbon comparative analyses • Responsible sourcing documentation such as for take-back programs, recycled content, bio-based content, and FSC certificates. • Ingredient disclosure and optimization reports such as HPDs, Declare Labels, and Cradle to Cradle certifications • VOC content and emissions documentation, including composite wood product formaldehyde emissions	Green Badger is advertised as a construction software platform for automating sustainability in the built environment. It is most widely used by contractors and design teams for streamlining LEED construction credit tracking, including product focused credits (Building Product Disclosure and Optimization and Low-Emitting Materials credits) as well as construciton waste, erosion and sediment control, and indoor air quality tracking. The platform has built a robust database of products and their sustainability certification and disclosure documentation, and is working on new interfaces geared towards the design community and AIA Materials Pledge reporting. This growth will support project-level and firm-level materials workflows as well as other ESG metric tracking (energy, carbon, water, etc.).	• Green Badger is subscription-based per project when using for LEED construction credit tracking. • Consider advocating for contractors to use Green Badger in the division 01 LEED section and during LEED construction kick-off meetings. • The user interface includes dial inforgraphics for easily checking progress towards project goals. • The Green Badger website includes free resources such as blog posts, case studies, cheat sheets, templates, and eBooks. Resources are oriented towards LEED v4, v4.1, and v5 criteria but are written very practically and are helpful for understanding various product sustainability documentation types and market maturity for various product categories. • The Green Badger product database intentionally includes expired documentation because for LEED it is important that the documentation was relevant at the time of product procurement. At this time contractors and design teams need to manually verify documentation applicability on a project-by-project basis.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Social Health + Equity Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Circular Economy	**Material Bank** *Material Bank*	materialbank.com/	• Interior finish and FFE product research • Ordering samples from multiple manufacturers in one place • Returning samples for reuse and waste minimization • Creating digital finish boards • Project material schedules organization and collaboration • Product performance, aesthetic, and other information in addition to sustainability	Material Bank is advertised as a platform for searching, sampling, and specifying products. It is most widely known as the industry clearinghouse for product sampling, and purchases enough carbon emissions offsets to neutralize emissions from shipped samples. It has visual workflow tools for developing and collaborating on digital material boards. Products can be filtered by Climate, Human Health, and Social Equity impact categories and the data can be tracked through downloadable product or project overview reports.	• The Price Range filter is unique and helpful. • Explore impact filters for different product categories because filter options vary. For example, within the Climate Health filter for the Tile product category there are around 30 sub-filters, but within the Climate Health filter for the Glass product category there are less than 10 sub-filters, and the Paint product category does not have any Climate Health filters. • Some Ecosystem Health and Circular Economy data is included in the Climate Health filter. • LEED Compliant and WELL Compliant filters are misleading because these types of classifications for products do not exist. It is suggested that this be interpreted as products that may contribute to LEED credits or WELL features. • All product data files downloaded can be easily refered back to in your account Digital Downloads History.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy	**Red2Green ($)** *Materially Better*	materiallybetter.com/red2green/	• Accessing some product sustainability data organized by impact category • Accessing Human Health data that supports Living Building Challenge certification • Organizing and collaborating on project materials schedules • Building firmwide product libraries • Streamlining AIA Materials Pledge Reporting	The Materially Better Red2Green (R2G) tool is advertised as a materials database that helps built environment stakeholders track projects and product certifications and sustainability attributes. The R2G tool started as a tool for supporting Living Building Challenge project certification and streamlining verification that products met the certification's human health related requirements.	• Custom reports can help summarize a project's material performance for AIA Materials Pledge reporting. • Built-in ranking criteria is very useful to quickly identify best in class materials, but the methodology for ranking is unclear. • Great customer support team for strategic advice and firm dashboard customization. • AI specification and AI submittal readers may be available for streamlining creation of firm and project materials lists.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health	**Transparency Catalog Project Builder and Library ($)** *Sustainable Minds*	transparencycatalog.com/	• Accessing some product sustainability data organized by impact category • Accessing the latest available EPDs and material ingredient documentation	The Sustainable Minds Transparency Catalog is advertised as a digital knowledge base of products and materials and end-to-end collaborative workflow solution for sourcing high-performance materials that meet both carbon impact and human health goals.	• The Transparency Catalog is free to use after creating a free account, but Project Builder and Library features require a subscription. • A subscription allows for organizing and collaborating on project materials schedules and building firmwide product libraries. • Subscriptions are annual and vary by quantity of users. • Each user gets their own private library in addition to project and firm libraries. • Product sustainability data and documentation is primarily related to Climate Health and Ecosystem Health but through Project Builder users can add data to products in their libraries and associate that data with other impacts.

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Product Certification and Disclosure Databases

Resources in this category are best for finding products with transparency disclosures and optimization certifications that address one or more impact category.

Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy (Varies by certificate type)	**Cradle to Cradle Certified Products** *Cradle to Cradle*	c2ccertified.org/certified-products	• Finding products with multi-attribute assessments that address all five impact categories of the AIA Materials Pledge • Finding products with rigorous third-party verification • Finding products that contribute to LEED v4/v4.1 Material Ingredients and Social Equity Pilot credits and the LEED v5 Building Product Selection & Procurement (BPSP) credit	The Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute evaluates products on science-based measures in the Cradle to Cradle Certified® Product Standard through a network of third-party assessors. The standard includes Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum level criteria for Material Health, Product Circularity, Clean Air & Climate Protection, Water & Soil Stewardship, and Social Fairness. Cradle to Cradle Certified® is a multi-attribute certification; products have been evaluated through the five categories and awarded a certificate level based on the lowest performing category. C2C Certified® Circularity and C2C Certified® Material Health are standalone certifications with criteria derived from the full standard. The online Certified Products database includes products with any of these certificate types.	• Product names on certificates may not be the product names you are familiar with. Try searching by manufacturer name or product type. • Cradle to Cradle Certified® product certificates do not tell you what certification level was awarded in each of the five categories, but this information is available through the online database. • Cradle to Cradle Certified® product certificates do not provide transparency information, but a summary of criteria for each category certification level is available through the online database. • C2C Certified® Material Health products receive a certificate with some transparency and optimization information.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Ecosystem Health Circular Economy Secondary Impacts: Climate Health Social Health + Equity (Varies by certificate type)	**Declare Database** *Living Future*	declare.living-future.org/	• Finding product ingredient disclosures • Finding products that have been pre-vetted against the Red List, Living Future's restricted substance list (RSL) • Finding product end-of-life options, such as recyclability or manufacturer take-back program availability, to keep materials out of landfills	Living Future has several program frameworks that outline criteria for regenerative buildings, sustainable materials, and equitable organizations. Their sustainable materials programs include the Living Product Challenge, Declare, and The Red List. The Living Product Challenge is organized into seven performance areas: Place, Water, Energy, Health + Happiness, Materials, Equity, and Beauty. Declare Labels are considered nutrition labels for products. The Declare Database can be used to find both Living Product Challenge certified products and products with Declare Labels. The Red List is a list of chemicals representing "worst in class" substances prevalent in the building industry that pose serious risks to human health and the environment. It is used as a benchmark for both the Living Product Challenge and Declare program product assessments.	• Declare Labels identify products as Declared, Red List Approved or Red List Free. Declared means products disclose 100% of ingredients but contain one or more Red List chemicals, Red List Approved means the product discloses at least 99% of ingredients and meet Red List requirements through an approved exception, and Red List Free means the product discloses 100% of ingredients and does not contain any Red List chemicals. • Embodied carbon reporting on Declare Labels is not a mandatory requirement for all Declare labels. When reported, the cradle-to-gate embodied carbon can be found in the top section of the label. • Living Future is evolving the Declare program towards a system of three sister labels: Health, Environment, and Equity to cover a broader spectrum of product impacts on people and planet. • See also the Living Future Regenerative Materials NOW Playbook for an overview of 40 design, materials selection, firm-level action, education, and advocacy related strategies for supporting the industry movement towards a regenerative matrials economy: store.living-future.org/products/regenerative-materials-now-a-playbook-for-designers-and-specifiers-free-download-copy
Primary Impact: Human Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity (Varies by version)	**HPD Public Repository** *Health Product Declaration Collaborative (HPDC)*	hpdrepository.hpd-collaborative.org/Pages/Results.aspx	• Finding product ingredient disclosures • Finding products that have been prevetted against restricted ingredients lists • Finding human and ecosystem health hazard information to inform selections	The Health Product Declaration Collaborative (HPDC) has lead the charge for providing publicly available building product transparency and ingredient disclosure. Health Product Declarations (HPDs) are a standardized reporting format for disclosing building product ingredients and assessing their human and environmental health impacts using tools like GreenScreen for Safer Chemicals and HPD Priority Hazard Lists. The HPD Public Repository can be used to find and download product HPDs. HPDs in the Public Repository have been assessed on the HPD Open Standard.	• The HPDC holds frequent 30 minute webinars to help designers and manufacturers understand HPD data, processes, and relationships to other industry resources. Sign up for the HPDC Newsletter for webinar updates. • HPDs include prechecks for LEED v4 and v4.1 Materials Ingredient credit contribution, and will soon be adding LEED v5 prechecks. • HPDC member firms can create custom dashboards with additional helpful filters such as specific chemicals of concern to avoid. • Not all HPDs are third-party verified but the HPD Public Repository allows you to filter by third-party verified HPDs among other helpful filters like CSI Section, Manufacturer, and LEED prechecks. • The Reporting Threshold metric on HPDs refers to substance minimum concentration level reported. It is better for products to be reported to 100 ppm than 1000 ppm (parts per million). 100 ppm means any ingredient that makes up 0.01% or more of the product has been reported, while 1000 ppm means substances are only reported if they make up 0.1% or more of the product. • HPDC launched a PFAS Attestation for manufacturers to communicate if PFAS are present below the reporting threshold.
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Circular Economy (Varies by certificate type)	**GreenCircle Certified Products** *GreenCircle Certified*	db.greencirclecertified.com/certificate	• Finding products with multi-attribute assessments that address all five impact categories of the AIA Materials Pledge • Finding products with third-party verified circular economy attributes	GreenCircle is a third-party certifier for sustainability claims. The GreenCircle Certified Products Database can be used to find products with GreenCircle's multi-attribute labels, GreenCircle verified material ingredient reporting (including HPDs and Declare Labels), and various other single-attribute GreenCircle certificates. There are two multi-attribute labels: Certified Environmental Facts (CEF) and Certified Sustainability Facts (CSF). The CSF label is designed to align with the AIA Materials Pledge and Common Materials Framework impact categories. Single-attribute certificates include Recycled Content, Recyclable Material, Closed Loop Product, Certified Energy Savings, Dematerialization, Carbon Footprint Reduction, Product Optimization, LCA Optimized, Sustainable Energy Practices.	• The GreenCircle CEF label requires carbon footprint emissions reduction, and at least one of the following manufacturing attributes: energy use reduction, renewable energy use, or carbon free electricity. Otherwise, manufacturers can customize which other attributes to report on. • The GreenCircle CSF label requires a minimum of two attributes in two different categories, with at least one attribute in Circular Economy, Human Health, or Climate Health. • Quantities of building products with single-attribute certificates are limited.

AIA Materials Pledge Action Guide
Appendix

Building Material Resources Overview

Building material impacts are a vast and quickly evolving matter. The intent of this document is to direct design professionals to a variety of resources that can help enhance commitments to the AIA Materials Pledge and make it easier to make intentional and holistically responsible material decisions.

Resources are categorized as 1. Material Impact Tools and Guidance, 2. Product Research and Workflow Tools, and 3. Product Certification and Disclosure Databases.

Most resources are fluid and being improved daily. We encourage you to explore the organizations' landing pages for the most up-to-date information.

As of Fall 2025 the resources are publicly available and free for design professionals unless identified with a dollar sign **($)**.

Five Impact Categories of the AIA Materials Pledge and Common Materials Framework

Product Certification and Disclosure Databases (Continued)

Resources in this category are best for finding products with transparency disclosures and optimization certifications that address one or more impact category.

Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impacts: Human Health Climate Health Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Circular Economy (Varies by certificate type)	**Certified Green Products Guide** *SCS Global Services*	scsglobalservices.com/certified-green-products-guide	• Finding products with third-party verified recycled content • Finding products with VOC emissions testing certificates	SCS Global Services is a third-party certifier and verifier for a wide range of environmental sectors, including built environment products. The Certified Green Products Guide is an online directory for product certifications that have been certified or verified by SCS. This includes Indoor Advantage and FloorScore for VOC emissions, LEVEL certification for furniture, Green Squared certification for tile and tile installation products, ASSURE Certified for rigid core vinyl flooring, Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and Health Product Declarations (HPDs), certified recycled content, and more.	• EPDs may also be available through the EC3 tool, while HPDs should also be available through the HPD Public Repository. • Indoor Advantage Gold and FloorScore certifications confirm compliance with the CDPH v1.2-2017 testing requirements for VOC emissions. • LEVEL is a multi-attribute furniture sustainability program by BIFMA that addresses all five impact categories of the AIA Materials Pledge and Common Materials Framework. • ASSURE Certified is a North American standard for rigid core vinyl flooring products. It assesses for indoor air quality, performance, and harmful chemicals like heavy metals and ortho-phthalates. This is an example of a certification that may deem a product healthier relative to others on the market but should not be considered representative of a healthy product. Vinyl flooring is primarily made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and the main ingredient of PVC is vinyl chloride, a known carcinogen.
Primary Impact: Ecosystem Health	**BioPreferred Program Database** *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*	biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/faces/catalog/Catalog.xhtml	• Finding products with certified biobased content as defined by ASTM D6866	The USDA BioPreferred Program encourages the use of products made from renewable agricultural, marine, and forestry materials known as biobased materials. It aims to reduce reliance on petroleum-based products, promote economic development, and create new markets for farmers and other biobased product businesses. The program provides tools and resources to help identify and purchase biobased products. Building materials can be found in the "Construction" category and include products like carpet, other flooring, lumber, wall coverings, acoustic panels, countertops, structural composite panels, insulation, sealants and coatings, and more.	• The catalog can be used to identify products that qualify for mandatory federal purchasing by meeting or exceeding the minimum biobased content requirements for one or more product categories identified by the USDA. For federal purchasing manufacturers can self-certify biobased content. • Products can only use the USDA Certified Biobased Product label if contents have been third-party tested and verified by the USDA to ensure accuracy of biobased percentages.
Primary Impacts: Ecosystem Health Social Health + Equity Secondary Impacts: Circular Economy (Varies by certificate type)	**FSC Certificates Public Dashboard** *Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)*	connect.fsc.org/fsc-public-certificate-search	• Finding FSC-certified products by tree species • Finding responsible wood sources by country or US state	The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) aims to tackle deforestation, climate, and biodiversity challenges. The FSC Certificates Public Dashboard can be used to find products, companies, and forests with different types of certificates issued by FSC that signify varying degrees of responsible sourcing and practices. Forest operators can obtain FSC Forest Management Certifications for areas of forests managed in line with FSC Principles and Criteria. These forests are considered FSC-certified. Other companies throughout the supply chain can obtain FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates to verify responsible practices from sourcing to distribution. Products with FSC-100% labels contain wood materials sourced only from FSC-certified forests. In order for a product with an FSC-100% label to be sold as FSC-certified, all organizations throughout the supply chain must also have FSC CoC certificates. There are two other types of FSC product labels that do not signify FSC-certified products but represent other degrees of responsible sourcing: FSC-Mix and FSC-Recycled. FSC-Recycled means the product is made from 100% recycled material. FSC-Mix means the product is made of materials from FSC-certified forests, recycled materials, and/or FSC-controlled wood. FSC-controlled wood does not come from FSC-certified forests but was sourced under certain controlled conditions that mitigates risk of irresponsible sourcing.	• Products advertised as FSC-certified are often also available without an FSC certification so it is important to specify FSC-certified as a product requirement. • Require FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates in product data submittals. To maintain CoC, all product fabricators (e.g. manufacturer, cabinet maker) need to have CoC certification until the product arrives at the jobsite. • The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) are two other organizations that offer chain of custody and product certificates that represent more responsible wood product sourcing. The PEFC is international and endorses SFI for North American products. • Studies suggest that FSC-certified wood comes from forests that sequester more carbon than conventional forests: us.fsc.org/preview.fsc-us-forest-carbon-storage-study-towards-climate-smart-forestry.a-879.pdf
Primary Impact: Social Health + Equity	**Just Database** *Living Future*	just.living-future.org/s/organizations	• Finding manufacturers and other organizations vetted for social health and equity	The Living Future Just program is a disclosure program that uses six categories and 21 indicators to assess an organization's social justice and equity. The six categories in the Just 3.0 program are Diversity, Inclusion, Compensation, Health, Benefits, and Stewardship. The Just Label is similar to a Declare Label (Living Future "nutrition labels" for products) and is a result of Living Future's assessment of the organization's disclosure. The label indicates a 1, 2, 3, or 4 performance level for each of the 21 indicators. Level 1 focuses on policy development, levels 2-4 require a policy, data, and supporting documentation, and level 4 represents "what good looks like." The Just Database includes descriptions of organizations with active Just Labels and in some cases a Q&A on the organizations experience with the program.	• Consider preferring manufacturers with active Just labels, or advocating for manufacturers to disclose social health and equity transparency through this program. • Just 3.0 launched in Spring 2024. • Detailed criteria for program indicators in the Just 3.0 program manual can help inform dialogue with manufacturers that advocates for human rights throughout supply chains: manula.com/manuals/living-future/just-3-0-program-manual/1/en/topic/living-wage