

Cradle to Cradle Certified^{CM} Products & USGBC LEED Innovation In Design Credit

According to USGBC, the purpose of the Innovation in Design category is to recognize projects for innovative building features and sustainable building practices and strategies. Innovative strategies are those that are not addressed by any existing LEED credits. Only those strategies that demonstrate a comprehensive approach and have significant, measurable environmental benefits are applicable.

In April 2007, a Credit Interpretation Ruling (CIR) was established that provided the following guideline for earning an Innovation in Design (ID) Credit for using Cradle to Cradle Certified^{CM} Products. Once that CIR was established, it could be used as a formula for all projects to earn a point in the Innovation in Design category. However, with the introduction of LEED 2009, a CIR can now only be used as a precedent for building projects registered under a version *prior* to LEED 2009 rating system. If your building project was registered pre-LEED 2009, you can still use the CIR listed below to earn an ID credit for use of Cradle to Cradle Certified products.

For buildings registered under LEED 2009 (LEED V3), ID credits awarded for one project at a specific point in time do not constitute automatic approval for similar strategies in a future project. Therefore, all Credit Interpretation Rulings are no longer considered precedents for future ID credits, and all ID credits will only be approved on a project-by-project basis.

USGBC has made no change to how they view Cradle to Cradle Certification and using certified products in a building can still be included in an application for an ID credit as an innovative strategy. While ID credits are no longer guaranteed, MBDC recommends that you continue to use CIR below as a template for your ID credit application and include it in a comprehensive strategy with measurable environmental benefits (using the requirements listed in the LEED reference Guide).

Credit Interpretation Ruling:

April 9, 2007: In an effort to help stimulate the development of environmentally focused product evaluation and certification tools for use by building professionals, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) sought to establish an innovation point for specification of products certified under the Cradle to Cradle[®] Certification program.

Cradle to Cradle Certification

This program – described in detail at www.C2Ccertified.com – provides manufacturers with a means to measure achievement in environmentally intelligent design and helps customers purchase and specify products that are pursuing a broader definition of quality. If a candidate product achieves the necessary criteria, it is certified as a Silver, Gold or Platinum product and can be labeled as Cradle to Cradle. Within the terms of the certification program, this means pursuing the following ideals:

- Using materials that are safe for human health and the environment
- Designing products and systems for material recovery and reutilization, such as recycling or composting
- Using renewable energy
- Efficiently using water and realizing maximum water quality associated with production
- Instituting strategies for social responsibility



The USGBC has published the following Intent, Requirements and Submittals for this Innovation in Design application through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™:

Intent:

Help stimulate the development of environmentally focused product evaluation and certification tools for use by building professionals.

Requirements:

Use Cradle to Cradle Certified^{CM} building materials and products for 2.5% of the total value of all building materials and products used in the project, based on cost. The "cost value" of products for the purposes of this calculation will be discounted by 50% for Silver level products and doubled for products certified at the Platinum level (Gold products are calculated at parity value):

Cost value of products = (Silver x 0.5) + Gold + (Platinum x 2)

Submittals:

The LEED project administrator for a building typically would complete a spreadsheet matrix with the following information:

Default Materials Value

Default Materials Cost = **Total Construction Cost* x 0.45

Total construction Cost = Hard costs for CSI Master Format 1995 Divisions 2-10 and 12only*

OR

Actual Materials Value

Actual materials cost = (excluding labor and equipment) hard costs for CSI Master Format 1995 Divisions 2-10 & 12** only

- Material Name/Description
- Manufacturer
- Total Material Cost (\$)
- Percent Of Product Cradle to Cradle Certified (% by Weight)
- Compliant Product Value
- Adjusted value (Silver x 0.5, Platinum x 2)

Total "cost value" (\$) of Cradle to Cradle certified materials: _____

Cradle to Cradle certified material value as a percentage of total materials cost*: _____

*To qualify for this Innovation in Design credit the percentage of Cradle to Cradle Certified^{CM} materials must be at least 2.5% of the total materials cost

**CSI Master Format 1995 Division 12 may be included in calculations if materials from Division 12 are used consistently with calculations in credits MRc3-7 in LEED-NC or MRc3-6 in LEED-CS. LEED-CI projects are required to include Division 12 components in the calculation of this ID point, as these components are required for calculations in CI credits MRc4-7. Please refer to the LEED-CI Reference Guide's credit calculation instructions for guidance in calculating these credits.