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New “How to” Guide Provides Manufacturers with Clear Guidance on Meeting Latest LEED Requirements

Nonprofit Clean Production Action Makes It Easier to Disclose and Remove Hazardous Chemicals from Building Products

(Boston, MA) --- A [new report](#) released today by Clean Production Action offers guidance for using their [GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals](#) method to meet the LEED v4® requirements.

GreenScreen® helps manufacturers, architects and designers in identifying chemicals of concern and selecting safer alternatives. Using GreenScreen® enables building professionals to meet green building requirements and choose safer materials and products.

“The latest version of LEED building certification, along with increasing public concern for environmental health, emphasizes identifying chemicals in building products and using safer alternatives to those that are toxic,” said Mark Rossi, Ph.D., Executive Director of Clean Production Action. “GreenScreen® is helping to clarify the world of chemicals in building products where disclosure is largely absent and knowledge of hazardous and safer chemicals is unknown.”

The newly-released “[How to Use GreenScreen® for LEED v4](#)” provides an overview on LEED requirements and defines terms that are critical for meeting them. “The ‘How to’ guide is the outcome of a unique collaboration of manufacturers and users to provide clear guidance for meeting LEED requirements,” said Annie Bevan, Certification and Operations Manager at Green Circle Certified, LLC.

Included in the Guide are directions on how manufacturers can get their Manufacturer Inventories or optimization claims certified for LEED v4 compliance. This guidance will help architects, designers and LEED project reviewers more easily identify product documentation that meets the requirements of the USGBC. Most importantly, the ‘How to’ guide charts a four-step process for using GreenScreen® to determine that products are compliant with the new LEED v4 requirements around building product disclosure and optimization, including:

- **Step 1: Product Inventory**— Identify comprehensive list of chemicals in products to the required thresholds (i.e 1000ppm or 100ppm)
- **Step 2: Chemical Hazard Assessment**— Use GreenScreen® to determine the inherent hazards of chemicals. GreenScreen® has the added advantage of enabling manufacturers to identify and report the hazards of both proprietary and non-proprietary chemical ingredients. GreenScreen® assessments are the more comprehensive option for reviewing hazards and generating Benchmark™ scores. The second option is the GreenScreen® List Translator, which is based on a tool that maps GreenScreen® Specified Lists to hazard classifications, and it results in List Translator Scores rather than GreenScreen® Benchmark™ scores.
- **Step 3: Reporting**— Next, the report offers samples for how to fulfill LEED documentation submission requirements, which are categorized by disclosure and optimization.
- **Step 4: (Optional): LEED-compliant verification** — Lastly, the “How to” guide provides guidance on how to obtain certification marks for LEED v4 compliance from GreenCircle Certified or Clean Production Action to enable easy identification of compliance with LEED v4.

The U.S. Green Building Council incorporated transparency into its building standards with its new LEED v4 standard in November of 2013. The new language offers points for using the GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals. The GreenScreen® method is used by businesses like Hewlett-Packard, governments like Washington State, and NGOs such as the Healthy Building Network in their Pharos Project. You can learn more about the GreenScreen® method here: <http://www.greenscreenchemicals.org/method>.

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Clean Production Action (CPA) designs and delivers strategic solutions for green chemicals, sustainable materials and environmentally preferable products. CPA’s unique role is to translate the systems-based vision of clean production into the tools and strategies NGOs, governments and businesses need to advance green chemicals, sustainable materials and environmentally preferable products. CPA works closely with existing networks across the globe, develops new partnerships, learns about emerging technological trends and associated environmental health problems, and develops essential solutions to achieve the fundamental transformations necessary in our economy.

Green Circle Certified was established to ensure specificity in third-party certification after encountering many unsubstantiated claims in the marketplace. Since 2009, GreenCircle has offered forward-thinking companies a competitive advantage by providing specific, third-party certification of environmental claims. GreenCircle’s rigorous evaluation process provides independent verification that claims of sustainable aspects of products and operations are valid. Manufacturers, suppliers, regulators, occupants, and consumers can be assured that products labeled with the GreenCircle Certified mark have been thoroughly assessed and their claims verified to applicable standards.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE NEW GUIDE: “How to Use GreenScreen® for LEED v4”

“As a Licensed GreenScreen® Profiler, NSF International is pleased to see well-documented guidance in how using GreenScreen to disclose or optimize chemical ingredients can earn points in LEED certification.”

- Nancy Linde, Managing Toxicologist, NSF International.

"This must-read "how to" guide offers a clear roadmap for product manufacturers, architects and designers who are ready to use GreenScreen for Safer Chemicals on LEED v4 projects. It is an essential guide for achieving and documenting transparency, disclosure and optimization. I believe it will lead to greater use of products where low inherent hazard is a priority, and it will help build a collaborative community of educated and informed practitioners in this newly evolving field.

- Catherine Bobenhausen, Authorized GreenScreen Practitioner, CIH, Vidaris, Inc.

"A simplified hazard disclosure format that allows for sharing of information along the supply-chain without the risk of trade secret information being exposed. That, in itself, will encourage collaboration and cooperation in this effort."

- Rebecca LeBlanc, Sustainability Consulting

"Clarity, like transparency, is a good thing. However, it is difficult to be transparent without being clear. And it is difficult to be clear without guidance. The Built Environmental has long been awaiting a Guidance program that will help with LEED v4 GreenScreen details. We're excited that it is now here."

- Russ Delozier, J+J Flooring

"As a small manufacturer of products that contribute to MR credits under LEED 2009, I am grateful for clear guidance on how to ensure that our products can still contribute under the more complex LEED V4."

- Nancy Wahl-Scheurich, Little FootPrint Lighting

"We are proud to be working with Clean Production Action and GreenCircle Certified on development of a guidance document for the Manufacturer Inventory. The Manufacturer Inventory will provide another much needed opportunity for manufacturers to move towards full product transparency, and will offer an additional path to compliance for the LEED Material Ingredient Reporting credit. With the release of this guidance, we expect to see an upsurge in the number of manufacturers who participate in material ingredient reporting, and we look forward to helping manufacturers develop documentation that meets the LEED requirements."

- Tara Blank, PhD, Founder of Elixir Environmental, a consulting firm that works with building product manufacturers to develop material ingredient documentation.