

# Urgent Alert on LEED Certified Wood Credit

*Act now to defend rigorous forest management standards in LEED*



*The newly proposed USGBC Forest Certification Benchmark could accept these forest practices as “exemplary”*

The mission of the green building movement has always been the pursuit of Triple Bottom Line – Environment, Society and Economics. The LEED Certified Wood Credit (MRc7) has long embodied this ideal, but it is being revised and the revision process is at a crucial juncture. **Decisions are being made now that will set the bar for the industry for decades and that threaten to critically weaken standards for forest management and forest protection. *Your involvement is pivotal.***

The USGBC has proposed a “forest certification benchmark” to be used to judge which forest certification systems are worthy of recognition under the Certified Wood Credit. The recently released third draft of the benchmark **represents a significant “lowering of the bar”** relative to the previous version. **Urgent action is needed to persuade USGBC to return to a higher standard and to preserve the integrity and credibility of LEED.**

**Step 1: Opt in to the vote.** New rules for LEED require that you opt in to a “consensus body” to be eligible to vote. **You must do this by 5 PM PST on March 24.** All employees of USGBC member organizations are eligible to opt in, but it is “1 organization, 1 vote.” Opt in at <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=2070>

**Step 2: Get more people involved.** Pass this message on and encourage others to opt in and comment. It is particularly important to recruit more pro-FSC contractors and builders (“Producers”).

**Step 3: Submit your comments.** Review the proposed changes and submit your comments. More background and guidance for submitting comments is available at [http://www.jasongrantconsulting.com/?page\\_id=179](http://www.jasongrantconsulting.com/?page_id=179). **Comments must be submitted by 5 PM PST on March 14 at <http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEEDDrafts/RatingSystemVersions.aspx?CMSPageID=1458>**

**Step 4: Stay connected.** If you would like continuing updates on this issue, contact [Jason@jasongrantconsulting.com](mailto:Jason@jasongrantconsulting.com). A Facebook group has been established to organize and inform: <http://www.facebook.com/n/?group.php&gid=326593127851&mid=1f18160G441698efG19eacdcG6>

**Supporting organizations:** Sierra Club, Healthy Building Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, Market Transformation to Sustainability, Capital Markets Partnership, Dogwood Alliance, ForestEthics, Northwest Natural Resource Group

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