



November 9, 2010

To: Whom it may concern

Subject: U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for New Construction

General Panel is a manufacturer of Structural Insulated Panels (SIP) for the building and construction industry. We use EPS (expanded polystyrene) cores for these panels. This letter is to certify that the EPS is made from 10% pre-consumer recycled product. We use rapidly renewable Oriented Stranded Board (OSB) as our outer skins for these panels. The adhesive is made by Ashland Performance Materials, see attachment for their LEED certification.

#### How do SIPs Score?

*It is important to note that the below table is meant for reference only. Actual project scoring will depend on the individual rater, builder, and other factors.*

#### PERFORMANCE PATH

##### **EA 1: Optimize Energy Performance**

*Maximum 34 Points*

Using the Performance Pathway, the home is awarded points based on overall energy performance, measured by a HERS Index.

A home's HERS Index is calculated by a certified energy rater and takes into account the insulation, results from a blower door test, HVAC, lighting, and other relevant information. LEED points are allocated on a scale home ranging from 0 points for ENERGY STAR and 34 points for a net zero energy. Homes must meet ENERGY STAR requirements as a prerequisite for this credit.

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#### PRESCRIPTIVE PATH

##### **EA 2.1: Insulation**

*Maximum 2 points*

Builders must install insulation that meets or (exceeds) their requirements of the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and are given points for exceeding this standard. SIPs are listed as an exception to this requirement, and must alternately pass a visual inspection using the ENERGY STAR SIP Visual Inspection Form

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##### **EA 3: Air Infiltration**

*Maximum 3 points*

Well sealed SIP homes have a proven track record of achieving extremely low levels of air infiltration. Homes are awarded points based on their blower door test results, with a maximum of 3 points possible.

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##### **MR 1.4 Framing Efficiencies**

*Maximum 3 points*

The project is given one point for each SIP system used: walls, roofs, and floors. If SIP floors are not used, points can be earned by using other material-efficient framing techniques, such as spacing floor joists greater than 16" o.c.

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##### **MR 2.2 Environmentally Preferable Products**

*Maximum 1 point*

SIP homes qualify for 0.5 points if two of the three building components (wall, roof, or floor) use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified OSB.

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##### **MR 3.2 Construction Waste Reduction**

*Maximum 3 points*

Using prefabricated SIPs decreases the amount of onsite construction waste, helping builders qualify for waste reduction points. Waste reduction points are given on a scale ranging from 0 to 3 depending on the amount of waste generated per square foot of the home or building.