BACKGROUND ON USGBC, THE LEED RATING SYSTEM, & POLYISO

The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ has brought all sectors of the building industry together to develop a voluntary, national standard in the development of “high-performing, sustainable buildings.”

According to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Increasingly, architects, specifiers, and building owners are challenged to create high performance buildings. To do so they must look to high performance building materials such as polyiso. Due to its high thermal efficiency, zero ozone depletion potential, and negligible global warming potential, polyiso is an ideal choice for LEED building design. As recognized for its environmental benefits by Environmental Building News, polyiso roof insulation can help building owners, architects and specifiers gain credits under at least two of LEED’s six rating categories including: 

- **Energy & Atmosphere, Prerequisite 2**

- **Energy & Atmosphere, Credit 1**
  Optimize Energy Performance: Atlas ACFoam® provides the highest thermal resistance per inch of material and can economically contribute to achieving one of the LEED levels of optimized energy performance.

- **Materials & Resources, Credit 2**
  Construction Waste Management: If the total percentage of reused materials in a project does not meet the minimum levels stated in Materials and Resources, Credit 1, Building Reuse, these reuse activities may be applied to this credit.

- **Materials & Resources, Credit 3**
  Materials Reuse: Atlas ACFoam® can be and often is reused in order to reduce demand for virgin materials and reduce waste.

- **Materials & Resources, Credit 4**
  Recycled Content: Atlas ACFoam® products with GRF (Glass Reinforced Facers) can be used toward one of the levels of recycled materials credit.

- **Materials & Resources, Credit 5**
  Local/Regional Materials: Atlas has seven polyiso insulation plants and sources of raw materials across North America. Therefore, the use of ACFoam® roof insulation may contribute towards gaining this credit, depending on the project location and the version of LEED being used as the basis of design.

- **Materials & Resources, Credit 7**
  Certified Wood: FSC-certified wood when used in products where Polyiso is bonded to the wood can contribute to gaining this credit.

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