

Certification programs and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) both provide a valuable approach to evaluating the environmental performance of products. However, a combination of the two provides even deeper insight and credibility. The following

matrix identifies various certification programs currently in use by architects and designers and provides an evaluation of each^a, with the inclusion of a life-cycle approach, and with LCA as a part of the certification program.

Matrix of Product Certification Programs selected by The Green Standard to serve as entry point for posting in the Green Guide EcoList as of May 2008. Developers of some programs have been notified that they must strengthen features covered by September 2008 or be dropped from the list.	SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION			LIFE CYCLE CERTIFICATION										TRANSPARENCY			
	Singular Focus (recycled content, sustainable forestry, etc.)	Multiple Attribute Focus (combines more than one focus area)	Life Cycle Focus (criteria spans a cradle-to-grave concept)	Criteria for Raw Material Sourcing	Criteria for Manufacturing Operations	Criteria for Product Use Phase	Criteria for End-of-Life Management	Comprehensive Criteria Set for Each Life Cycle Stage	Criteria for ISO-Compliant Full Product Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)	Criteria for Reductions in Life Cycle Impacts	Requires the Use of LCA for Certification	Requires Independent Verification of LCA Data	Publicly Available Assessment Methods and Performance Thresholds	Publicly Available Summary of Results	Multi-Stakeholder Development Process	Public Standards Appeals Process	
C2C McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry www.mbdc.com		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y										
EcoLogo Government of Canada www.ecologo.org		Y	Y	Y ^b	Y ^b	Y ^b	Y ^b					Y		Y			
Energy Star U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.energystar.gov	Y											Y	Y		Y		
Floor Score Scientific Certification Systems www.scs-certified.com	Y				Y							Y		Y	Y		
FSC Certified Forest Stewardship Council www.fsc.org		Y										Y			Y		
GREENGUARD Air Quality Certification GREENGUARD Environmental Institute www.greenguard.org	Y											Y			Y		
Green Label Plus Carpet & Rug Institute www.carpet-rug.org	Y											Y					
Green Seal Green Seal Organization www.greenseal.org		Y	Y	Y ^b	Y ^b	Y ^b	Y ^b					Y		Y	Y		
Indoor Advantage Scientific Certification Systems www.scs-certified.com	Y											Y		Y	Y		
SMART Sustainable Product Standard Market Transformation to Sustainability www.mts.sustainableproducts.com		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		
Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings (Draft NSF 2-2007) www.nsf.org		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y		Y	Y		
Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard NSF 140-2007 www.nsf.org		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^c		Y		Y	Y		
Sustainable Choice Scientific Certification Systems www.scs-certified.com		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^c		Y		Y	Y		
SFI Certified Sustainable Forestry Initiative www.sfi-program.org		Y										Y			Y		

^a Based on information publicly available on the program's Web site. ^b Since program contains multiple product categories with different criteria, the authors cannot guarantee that these criteria apply to each category directly. In principle, the program addresses these. ^c Only requires the use of LCA to reach the highest level of certification: Platinum.