Asphalt Takes the LEED!!

Asphalt Pavements & LEED Certification

Environmental sustainability is a new way of doing business and truly changing Colorado's construction landscape. A central factor that is contributing to the greening of Colorado is governmental entities requiring LEED certification for new buildings and major renovations. In response, the asphalt industry is working diligently to advance sustainability concepts and be a vital element of LEED certification and building green.

Understanding LEED Certification

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a program that encourages the design of buildings, homes, schools, and developments that advance sustainability concepts. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, the LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

Earning LEED Certification

To earn certification a building project must meet certain prerequisites and performance benchmarks ("credits") within each category. Projects are awarded Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification depending on the number of credits they achieve.

How Asphalt Pavements Contribute to Attaining LEED Credits

Asphalt pavements contribute to LEED credits in a variety of ways. Asphalt pavements are 100% recyclable. As such, credits associated with recycling and waste management are attainable. Porous asphalt pavement reduce the quantity and improve the quality of storm water runoff. LEED credits can be attained for porous pavements use under categories for storm water management (both quantity and quality), and heat island reduction. In recent times, coating materials have been introduced to the industry. These allow designers to express their creativity and ingenuity while at the same time improving pavement reflectance and capturing credit for heat island reduction. From conventional, to porous, to pattern-stamped, asphalt pavements provide flexibility and options to architects and engineers designing sustainable pavements.

LEED Credit for Asphalt Pavement

Tables have been developed to show for the different LEED programs the potential credits attainable by using asphalt pavements. Each table provides the rating category, credit description, available points, and a discussion of the applicability/contribution that asphalt pavements have in attaining credits. This information has been provided for a variety of LEED programs. The tables can be downloaded from the Resources section of the CAPA website.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY – *Paving Green with Asphalt*

For more information, contact the Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association at (303) 741-6150, office@co-asphalt.com, www.co-asphalt.com