

Pharos

Signaling The Future of
Material Selection™



Environment * Health * Social justice

- Take the most comprehensive view of what it means to be a green building material.
- Search for the best products with the lowest impacts.
- Evaluate manufacturer claims.
- Discuss with other users.

Make sure that the materials with which you build projects reflect your priorities for building occupant, community and global health.

The Pharos Project is developing web-based tools for collecting data on the attributes of building materials and scoring their progress toward health, environmental and social justice ideals.

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www.pharosproject.net

Principles

Comprehensive - The Pharos Project relies upon quantifiable, multi-attribute data, addressing environmental, health and social practices to the maximum extent practical, and accounts for data gaps and uncertainties by reference to best professional practices, social policy and the precautionary principle.

Empowering - Pharos tools will be easy to use, developed in collaboration with product specifiers and purchasers that empowers them to select building materials that embody best environmental, health and social practices.

Transparent – Transparency in evaluation protocols is required to align with sustainability ideals. Pharos will show its own assumptions, methodology, data and analysis.

Transformative – The Pharos Project will enable a culture that rewards transformational innovation toward ideal environmental, health and social practices.

Pharos at a glance

Products are scored for progress toward ideals in 16 categories

Sector	Category	Goal	Indicators
Health & Pollution	IAQ/User Exposure	Eliminate content and emissions that may endanger the health of building occupants and neighbors	Use phase VOC emissions, TVOC content, IAQ certification programs, chemical of concern content
	High Hazard Toxics	Eliminate the use or creation of persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic, and/or untested chemicals	cradle-to-cradle use, production and content of chemicals of concern (POPs, PBTs, halogenated compounds, carcinogens, reproductive toxicants, mutagens, endocrine disruptors, highly acute toxicants and untested chemicals)
	Global Warming	Eliminate creation of climate changing gases	cradle-to-gate global warming gas emissions
	Air Quality	Eliminate criteria pollutant releases to the air	in development
	Water Quality	Eliminate criteria pollutant releases to the water	in development
Environment & Resources	Renewable Materials	Utilize only refurbished or recycled materials or sustainably harvested bio-based materials	Reused, refurbished, salvaged, recycled, agricultural, and forestry content, GMO free, organic and sustainable certifications. Product and packaging.
	Embodied Energy	Minimize total energy use	cradle-to-gate embodied energy
	Renewable Energy	Utilize or produce energy only from sustainable, renewable sources	manufacturing and cradle-to-gate renewable energy use and projects, offsets, supply chain projects,
	Embodied Water	Minimize water use	cradle-to-gate water use, water conservation projects
	Solid Waste	Eliminate the generation of waste	in development
	Habitat Restoration	Extract and harvest raw materials in a fashion that protects and restores sensitive habitats	in development
Social & Community	Occupational Safety	Protect the safety, health, and well-being of the workers who produce the products	worker injury violations, training, safety audits, public reporting, worker committees, safety engineering & design program supply chain work
	Consumer Safety	Minimize inherent hazards to consumers in products	in development
	Fairness & Equity	Provide fair compensation and non-exploitative conditions with equal and equitable opportunities for all workers	forced & child labor, discrimination in hiring & worker practices, benefits, living wage, union interference, involvement in countries with bad labor practices, supply chain practices, diversity in workforce & governance, diversity tracking, workforce engagement, labor policy
	Community Contributions	Actively contribute to the overall welfare and sustainability of affected communities	in development
	Corporate Leadership	Provide transparency and leadership in reporting and improving corporate impact on environment, health & social justice	violations of worker safety, waste & discharge regulations & treaties, EMS, sustainability report, political activity, leadership in: green chemistry, innovative manufacturing, supply chain management & environmental stewardship

Social & Community sector measures are addressed on a company wide basis for the primary manufacturer of the product.

Many of the Health & Pollution and Resources measures are currently evaluated on a cradle-to-gate basis, with cradle-to-cradle measure under development

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