

# How Polygood® Helps Projects Earn **LEED Certification** — A Story of Circular Materials for Circular Buildings

Imagine standing at the beginning of a new project: a lobby that must feel timeless, a retail interior that must stand out, or a workplace that must reflect the values of the people working inside it. You open the materials palette, thinking not only about colour and texture, but about impact. Architects today design more than spaces — they design responsibility. And this is where Polygood®, a material made from 100% recycled plastic with a fully circular lifecycle, becomes a powerful tool in your LEED strategy. What follows is a clear storyline of how Polygood® contributes to LEED v4.1 across the most relevant categories.

## 1. The Chapter of Origins: Raw Material Sourcing (MR)

**LEED Credits:** BD+C & ID+C – Sourcing of Raw Materials  
**Potential Points:** Up to 2 points (BD+C), up to 2 points (ID+C)

Every material has a story. Polygood's® starts with waste: old refrigerators, discarded CD cases, unusable packaging. Instead of ending in a landfill, these materials are reborn. LEED rewards this story. Because Polygood® is 100% recycled, its entire material cost counts towards the LEED thresholds:

- 15% of total material cost → 1 point
- 30% → 2 points

For project teams struggling to reach these thresholds, Polygood® is a reliable anchor. It is not partially recycled — it's entirely recycled — which gives it the highest possible contribution under this credit.

## 2. The Chapter of Transparency: Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)

**LEED Credits:** BD+C & ID+C – Environmental Product Declarations  
**Potential Points:** 1 point (BD+C), 1 point (ID+C)

**Architects love clarity:** in drawings, in details, and in environmental data. **Polygood® brings this clarity** through a third-party verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

Under LEED v4.1, a product-specific Type III EPD is especially valuable — it counts as 1.5 products towards the required number. This means Polygood® helps projects achieve the EPD credit quickly and confidently, contributing to 1 point in both BD+C and ID+C.

## 3. The Chapter of Material Health: Ingredient Transparency

**LEED Credits:** BD+C & ID+C – Material Ingredients  
**Potential Points:** Up to 2 points (BD+C), up to 2 points (ID+C)

Designing with healthy materials is no longer optional. Polygood® holds Cradle to Cradle Certified® Bronze (Material Health), a recognized LEED compliance pathway.

This certification demonstrates:

- Full ingredient disclosure
- No harmful chemicals above 1000 ppm
- Verified safer chemistry

This allows Polygood® to support:

- 1 point for Material Ingredient Reporting, and
- potentially 1 point for Optimization, depending on the other project materials.

With Polygood® in the palette, teams move significantly closer to the 2-point maximum.

## 4. The Chapter of Construction: Cutting, Waste, and Circularity

**LEED Credits:** BD+C – Construction & Demolition Waste Management  
**Potential Points:** Up to 2 points

Every workshop and construction site generates off-cuts. The difference is what happens next.

Polygood's® Take-Back Programme ensures every cutting, chip, or panel off-cut can be returned, recycled, and transformed into new sheets.

This contributes directly to the project's waste-diversion strategy:

- Recycled off-cuts count as a "material stream"
- They support reaching the 50% diversion target (1 point)
- Or the advanced waste prevention strategy (2 points)

It transforms what is usually waste into a quantifiable LEED asset.

## 5. The Chapter of Air: Indoor Environmental Quality (VOC Emissions)

**LEED Credits:** BD+C & ID+C – Low-Emitting Materials

**Potential Points:** Up to 3 points (ID+C), up to 3 points (BD+C)

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Indoor environments matter — especially in hospitality, offices, retail, and education.

Polygood® is typically certified Low VOC, meeting recognized standards such as CDPH v1.2.

This makes it compliant for the “Walls / Ceilings / Architectural Finishes” category.

Depending on the broader material selection, Polygood® helps:

- Achieve 1–3 points, depending on how many categories reach compliance
- Unlock exemplary performance if the project achieves 90%+ compliance in three or more categories

Once again, Polygood® supports the highest levels of achievement.

## 6. The Chapter of Innovation: Circular Economy Credits

**LEED Credits:** BD+C & ID+C – Innovation

**Potential Points:** Up to 2 points

Circularity is more than recycled content — it's a design philosophy.

Polygood® can contribute to Innovation points in two powerful ways:

1. Exemplary Performance

Because Polygood® is 100% recycled, it can help the project exceed the MR credit thresholds — for example reaching 45% responsibly sourced materials instead of the standard 30%.

This can yield 1 Innovation point.

2. Circular Economy Strategy

Polygood's® take-back system, closed-loop recycling, and full material traceability exceed standard LEED requirements.

A project team can propose an Innovation credit focused on:

- Closed-loop material flow
- End-of-life recovery
- Zero-waste installation

This can contribute another point.

# Total LEED Points **Polygood®** Can Support

### **BD+C (Building Design & Construction)**

Up to 11 points

- 2 pts Sourcing of Raw Materials
- 1 pt EPD
- 2 pts Material Ingredients
- 2 pts Construction Waste
- 3 pts Low-Emitting Materials
- 2 pts Innovation

### **ID+C (Interior Design & Construction)**

Up to 10 points

- 2 pts Sourcing of Raw Materials
- 1 pt EPD
- 2 pts Material Ingredients
- 3 pts Low-Emitting Materials
- 2 pts Innovation

