level Certified and the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturing Association (BIFMA) Sustainability Standard

By Nathan Christensen
Green Manufacturing Initiative
Western Michigan University
• **level** works in conjunction with the BIFMA furniture sustainability standards and uses third party auditors to confirm the obtained level of compliance.
  
  – **level** can be declared by the manufacturer as a primary party if so desired.
  
  • Currently, no manufacturer has declared primary party compliance.
  
  – **level** was developed with ANSI oversight to create a set of transparent, time-tested and consensus based processes for reaching certification.
level Auditors

- **Bureau Veritas**
  - Location: Novi, MI; Downers Grove, IL; Akron, OH
- **Intertek**
  - Location: Detroit, Kentwood & Livonia, MI
- **LGA**
- **National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)**
  - Location: Ann Arbor, MI
- **Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)**
- **UL Environment**
  - Location: Northbrook, IL
level Certified Companies

- **Haworth**
  - Board Member, Franco Bianchi
  - Certified by NSF

- **Herman-Miller**
  - Board Member, Brian Walker
  - Certified by NSF

- **Izzy+**
  - Board Member, Chuck Saylor
  - Certified by SCS

- **Steelcase**
  - Board Member, James Keane
  - Certified by SCS
Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturing Association (BIFMA)

• BIFMA: Advocates and pushes for standards in the office furniture industry that support environmental awareness and green practices.
  – Pros: Access to industry specific statistics and information, networking, and added credibility.
  – Cons: Point system is potentially skewed towards those with a low level of environmental awareness.
    • For example: Points for lessening current energy consumption by a set %.
Point Acquisition

• The materials, energy consumption, and social aspect of your product are evaluated and awarded “X” number of points based the criteria you fulfill.

  – **Example:** Energy and Atmosphere 6.4.1: “The applicant shall receive one point for each facility that has achieved USGBC Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.”
Product Conformance Areas

• Materials
  – 26 total points possible
• Energy and Atmosphere
  – 25 total points possible
• Human and Ecosystem Health
  – 29 total points possible
• Social Responsibility
  – 10 total points possible
BIFMA Certification Levels

• Silver
  – Requires at least 32 points.
  – Five (5) points must relate be product related.

• Gold
  – Requires at least 45 points.
  – Eleven (11) points must be product related.

• Platinum
  – Requires at least 90 points.
  – Eighteen (18) points must be product related.
Questions and Comments?