



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

By Nathan Christensen
Green Manufacturing Initiative
Western Michigan University



level Certified and BIFMA

- **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?

