

DEMYSTIFYING FURNITURE'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABILITY

This course deepens understanding of the role furniture plays in the sustainable built environment. Navigating industry sustainability programs and trends can be overwhelming. This course compares and explains the approach to sustainability between building rating systems, transparency protocols, and product certifications. It defines key sustainability attributes relating to furniture and how LEVEL® by BIFMA— as a comprehensive third-party multi-attribute furniture sustainability standard— can support sustainability goals.

PRODUCT EVALUATIONS

	LEVEL	CRADLE TO CRADLE	EPD	DECLARE	HPD	SAN	FSC	GREEN GAURD
Product Emissions								
Forest Management								
Sustainable Agriculture								
Chemistry Assessment								
Red-Listed Chemicals								
Recycled Content								
End of Life Options								
Lifecycle Assessment								
Manufacturing Energy Management								
Manufacturing Water Management								
Manufacturing Emissions								
Social Fairness								
Site Visit								

LEVEL® by BIFMA

No one is more focused on furniture than BIFMA. LEVEL® is one of the few leading third-party multi-attribute standards. LEVEL® is to furniture like LEED® is to buildings. Prerequisites across all categories must be met before points are awarded for meeting Environmental, Health & Wellness, and Social impacts criteria related to the Product, Facility, and Organization. To learn more, scan QR code OR visit <https://www.bifma.org/general/custom.asp?page=level-certified>

LEVEL® Covers More

- ... certified furniture products by LEVEL®: 4,467
- ... certified furniture products by Declare: 125
- ... certified furniture products by Cradle-to-Cradle: 100



SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES



Building Rating Systems

LEED®, Living Building Challenge (LBC), WELL, BREEAM



Transparency Protocols

Declare, HPD, EPD, LCA



Product Evaluation Labels

LEVEL®, Cradle-to-Cradle, *multi-attribute*

GreenGuard, Indoor Advantage, FSC, *single attribute*

BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS

Main Programs

When it comes to wholistic sustainability rating systems, there are three dominant certifications: LEED®, WELL, and Living Building Challenge (LBC). Each evaluates building performance from a unique approach and varies in focus on furniture.

LEED®

Evaluates the impact of building design on planetary resources and the extent to which a building improves the environment around it.



Living Building Challenge (LBC)

Arguably, the most rigorous rating system. Requires buildings to be net positive in energy use, water use, and waste. Individual “petals” (criteria) can be sought.



LIVING
BUILDING
CHALLENGE

WELL

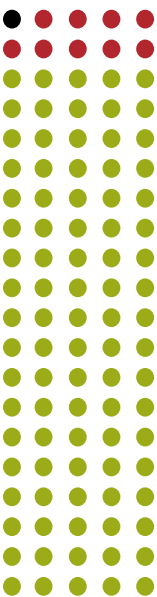
Prioritizes human health and evaluates impact across 10 areas: Materials, Air, Light, Mind, Thermal Comfort, Movement, Community, Water, Nourishment, and Sound.



HEALTH & WELLNESS THROUGH DESIGN

The Importance of People

Health & Wellness have emerged as strong trends within sustainable manufacturing and design. Sustainability efforts are not only for the planet—they’re for people, too. Organizations invest significantly in keeping their employees safe, healthy, and productive.



- 1% ENERGY COSTS
- 9% RENTAL COSTS
- 90% STAFF COSTS SALARIES & BENEFITS



SUSTAINABLE ATTRIBUTES OF FURNITURE

Creating Synergies



LEVEL® by BIFMA is the comprehensive certification for sustainable furniture. Additionally, LEVEL® certified furniture supports each of the main building rating systems (LEED®, LBC, and WELL).

