

Sustainable Office Furniture Assessment Stakeholders Meeting

February 15 -17, 2006
Grand Rapids, MI

Market Factors

- Influence of GBC LEED rating system
- Federal, State, local government support
- Executive Order 13101 - EPP
- Evolving customer demographic
- Emerging proprietary standards

Business Factors

- Differentiation in a competitive global market
- More efficient business operations

Proposal

- BIFMA lead development/may partner with other organizations
- Standardized method of evaluating the sustainable attributes of office furniture
- Use an open, consensus based, multi-stakeholder process

Objectives

- Provide an open alternative to proprietary certification programs
- Provide a common definition of EPP for government customers
- Provide a leading edge option for USGBC, State of California, etc.
- Provide framework for manufacturers

Objectives

- Harmonize a national approach
- Develop an assessment tool that is meaningful to the marketplace
- Develop a framework that provides for multiple levels of achievement
- Motivation for small firms to participate

Advantages

- Open process brings credibility
- Increases access for small companies
- Minimize marketplace confusion
- Provides a more cost competitive environment
- Provides guidance to industry on efficiency

Scope

- Applies to commercial office furniture
- Applicable globally & thru supply chain
- Product focused but addresses:
 - Human and ecosystem health
 - Energy and energy efficiency
 - Materials and material reutilization
 - Natural resources
 - Economics and costs
 - Social responsibility

Scope

- Provides pathway to sustainability via performance levels
- Intended to evolve as market and technology improve

Strategy/Plan

- Project Manager's Responsibilities:
 - Work under supervision of BIFMA
 - Help plan and facilitate meetings
 - Meet established timeframe
 - Lead discussions and provide research input
 - Coordinate member and stakeholder input
 - Develop a consensus document that is credible to outside stakeholders

Strategy/Plan

- Project Manager's Goals:
 - **Sustainable Office Furniture Assessment**
 - Works for all size companies
 - Uses market-based incentives
 - Allows multiple levels of achievement
 - Does not "re-create the wheel"
 - Attempts to expand certification options
 - Has broad industry and stakeholder support

Benefits

- Meets or exceeds customer expectations
- Works in a voluntary capacity with state and federal environmental agencies to eliminate the need for new regulation
- Advances development of new products that do not have negative human health or environmental impacts

Benefits

- Provides a path for the incremental reduction/elimination of non-renewable resources
- Helps differentiate products and offers potential for added-value in the marketplace

Summary

- Develop a standardized method of evaluating sustainable attributes
- Open consensus based process
- Multi-stakeholders
- Aggressive schedule

Questions

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