

Sustainability and LEED Potential Using Stainless Steel Metal Fabrics

Our approach

As responsible members of our many communities, GKD-USA's key objectives include sustainability in the broadest sense and protection of the environment.

We commit to:

Foster employee awareness of environmental responsibilities.

Consider environmental impacts when evaluating new products, technologies and manufacturing processes.

Implement conservation of natural resources, pollution prevention and waste minimization.

Encourage research of manufacturing and environmental technologies utilizing long-lasting, recyclable, stainless steel mesh.

Respond appropriately to community and customer requests.

Ensure that products and facilities contribute to a sustainable environment.

Implement manufacturing and production processes that protect the environment.

Utilize packaging that can be recycled and reused.

With respect to our product line of stainless steel metal fabrics:

Stainless steel is a sustainable product.

Stainless steel used in GKD metal fabrics contains greater than 60% post-industrial and post-consumer content recycled material.

Recyclability directly correlates with minimization of waste.

Recycling stainless steel involves no health hazardous materials.

Utilizing GKD metal fabrics is an environmentally responsible and resource efficient choice.

Stainless steel

does not require a surface coating that can deteriorate and possibly pollute the environment;
does not require hazardous cleaning products to maintain;
is 100% recyclable, retaining its inherent qualities throughout the recycling process;
is low maintenance.

GKD metal fabrics are non-corrosive, durable, heat, fire and impact resistant and sustainable for all climates and environments.

GKD metal fabrics utilized as a building façade or skin mitigates intense sunlight while

providing shade and ventilation for energy savings through reduced HVAC ;

providing usable natural light for energy savings.

LEED Points

Using GKD products on your project can contribute to your LEED points. Below is guidance to assist you in this endeavor. Remember, in all cases, the stainless steel fabric raw materials are significantly composed of post-consumer and post-industrial content. **A very important point to consider about stainless steel is the readily available and active metal markets in place to facilitate re-use of the product.**

LEED Points Potential - New Construction, Schools, Healthcare, Commercial Interiors and Retail. (Please consult USGBC LEED guidance for your specific project):

Optimize Energy Performance – Up to 20 points. Intent: Increase levels of energy performance above the baseline to reduce environmental and economic impacts associated with excessive energy use.

GKD metal fabric utilized as a veil or exterior façade reduces solar heat gain by shading the building, thus reducing the energy required to power HVAC systems. Metal fabric allows the transmission of natural light providing effective internal illumination while reducing the related energy costs.

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Material Ingredients – 1 to 2 Points. Intent: To encourage the use of products and materials for which life-cycle information is available and that have environmentally, economically, and socially preferable life-cycle impacts. To reward project teams for selecting products for which the chemical ingredients in the product are inventoried using an accepted methodology and for selecting products verified to minimize the use and generation of harmful substances. To reward raw material manufacturers who produce products verified to have improved life-cycle impacts.

The cable and materials of Metal Fabrics are typically 60% recycled materials and 40% new materials. During manufacturing 100% of the scrap or unused material is recycled. The material is 100% recyclable whenever it reaches its' useful life.

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Environmental Product Declarations – 1 to 2 Points. Intent: To encourage the use of products and materials for which life-cycle information is available and that have environmentally, economically, and socially preferable life-cycle impacts. To reward project teams for selecting products from manufacturers who have verified improved environmental life-cycle impacts.

Building Life-Cycle Impact Reduction – 1 to 5 Points. Intent: To encourage adaptive reuse and optimize the environmental performance of products and materials.

Building Reuse – 1 Point. Intent: Extend the lifecycle of existing building stock, conserve resources, retain cultural resources, reduce waste and reduce environmental impacts of new buildings as they relate to materials manufacturing and transport.

An existing building can be fitted with a façade of GKD material for a long-lasting, new appearance with the same benefits of sun shading and energy savings of a new building.

Daylight – 1 to 3 Points. Intent: To connect building occupants with the outdoors, reinforce circadian rhythms, and reduce the use of electrical lighting by introducing daylight into the space.

The use of a metal fabric façade has the benefit of connecting occupants with indoor and outdoor spaces. Undeniably, this leads to greater productivity, healthier environments, increased airflow and shading.

LEED Accredited Professional – 1 Point. Intent: To encourage the team integration required by a LEED project and to streamline the application and certification process.

GKD maintains professionals of all types on staff, including LEED certified individuals. It is highly probable that your project already has LEED certified members on board.

Light Pollution Reduction – 1 point. Intent: To increase night sky access, improve nighttime visibility, and reduce the consequences of development for wildlife and people.

A GKD fabric façade on the outside of a building helps to control light intensities from natural and unnatural sources. Reasonable light is allowed to pass and visibility to the outside is allowed.

Acoustic Performance – 1 to 2 points. Intent: To provide workspaces and classrooms that promote occupants' well-being, productivity, and communications through effective acoustic design.

GKD attractive and durable acoustic ceiling systems provide noise reduction and control.

Quality Views – 1 to 2 Points. Intent: To give building occupants a connection to the natural outdoor environment by providing quality views.

Transparency of a metal fabric façade allows for a clear view while shading light and heat.