STEEL AND SUSTAINABILITY

Steel is the most widely recycled material on the planet; surpassing aluminum, plastic, paper and glass. Recycling saves money while conserving energy resources. Besides steel having a high durability rate, steel is easily recycled from demolition or construction. About 88% of all steel products and nearly 100% of structural steel beams and plates used in construction are recycled into new products.

Improved Practices in Steel Manufacturing have contributed to the reduction of energy resources, water use reduction and improvement of air.

Steel and LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system, also known as LEED, is a voluntary certification system designed to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible places to live and work. LEED is divided into five environmental categories and a sixth category to recognize innovative design. Categories address: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Innovation in Design. As a leader in recyclable material, Steel contributes to:

Materials & Resources Credit 4: Recycled Content intends to increase demand for building products that incorporate recycled content materials, therefore reducing impacts resulting from extraction and processing of new virgin materials.

- **Credit 4.1 (1 point)** "Use materials with recycled content such that the sum of postconsumer recycled content plus one-half of the pre-consumer content constitutes at least 10% (based on cost) of the total value of the materials in the project."

- **Credit 4.2 (1 point)** "Use materials with recycled content such that the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the pre-consumer content constitutes at least 20% of the total value of the materials in the project."

Uses of Steel

- Steel Beams & Columns
- Steel Studs – Residential & Commercial
- Steel Roofing
- Steel Decking
- Steel Doors
- Ductwork
- Steel Siding
- Wind Turbines
- Corrugated steel pipe
- Bridges
- Utility Poles
- Decorative Steel

Resources

American Iron and Steel Industry
Recycle-steel.org