

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EnvyLawn® Details LEED Certification Qualifiers**

**Dalton, Georgia** – In recent years, demand has grown rapidly for building materials that fulfill the requirements of LEED, the benchmark certification program for green building projects sponsored by the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and buildings that carry its seal of approval are demonstrating advantages not only in public relations appeal, but studies show that energy-efficient LEED buildings cost less to operate, have higher occupancy rates, enhance occupant health and well-being and increase investment returns compared to their non-LEED counterparts. Though desirable, the LEED certification process, with its complex formulas and calculations, takes considerable commitment and planning on the part of architects and designers. Understandably, green product manufacturers strive to provide accurate and concise information to the building community about their products' LEED-worthy attributes.

One common misconception about LEED is that building materials themselves qualify for LEED certification, when in fact it is only a project's total LEED point score that determines whether the project qualifies for LEED, and if so, which of the three levels of certification it will achieve. Out of a possible 69 elective points, buildings that earn 26 points qualify for the standard LEED certification. The Silver certification level requires 33 points, the Gold certification level requires 39 points, and the Platinum certification level requires at least 52 points.

This document limits itself to credit categories listed in the LEED for New Construction & Major Renovations protocol, version 2.2. Other LEED protocols, such as LEED CI for Commercial Interiors, and the still developing LEED for Homes differ somewhat in their requirements for credit.

EnvyLawn® artificial grass is made out of the highest quality materials and is 100% recyclable. Many environmental benefits, such as drastically decreased water requirements, elimination of fuel requirements and greenhouse gasses from lawn maintenance equipment, elimination of the need for fertilizers or pesticides, and reduction of allergens are associated with using EnvyLawn® for landscaping. In addition, EnvyLawn® can be recycled at the end of its life cycle, thus reducing the amount of material that ends up in landfills.

EnvyLawn® artificial grass contributes points under LEED New Construction and LEED for Existing Buildings in the following categories:

LEED New Construction –

### **WATER EFFICIENCY**

#### **WE Credit 1.1: Water Efficient Landscaping: Reduce by 50%**

*1 Point*

This credit is awarded for limiting or eliminating the used of potable water, or other natural surface or subsurface water resources available on or near the project site, for landscape irrigation.

#### **WE Credit 1.2: Water Efficient Landscaping: No Potable Water Use or No Irrigation**

*1 Point in addition to WE Credit 1.1*

This credit is awarded for eliminating the use of potable water, or other natural surface or subsurface water resources available on or near the project site, for landscape irrigation.

### **MATERIALS & RESOURCES**

#### **MR Credit 5.1: Regional Materials: 10% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally**

*1 Point*

This credit is awarded if 10% of the total materials needed for a project are extracted, harvested, and manufactured within a 500 mile radius. If only a fraction of the material is from the region, that amount by weight will contribute to the regional credit value.

**MR Credit 5.2: Regional Materials: 20% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally**

*1 Point in addition to MR Credit 5.1*

This credit is awarded if 20% of a project's total materials meet the criteria detailed in credit 5.1. EnvyLawn® is manufactured in Dalton, GA and will contribute to this credit if the project is within a 500 mile radius of Dalton.

In addition, EnvyLawn® may also contribute towards ID Credit 1-1.4: Innovation in Design due to its recyclable nature and water saving benefits. Up to four points are available under the Innovation & Design category.



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