



Benefits

- Products manufactured locally support local jobs and tax dollars.
- Buying local reduces shipping costs.
- Using local businesses and products can enhance your project's marketability and your corporate image.
- The vital person-to-person collaboration that helps good projects turn into outstanding projects is easier to accomplish on a local scale.
- Building relationships with local product providers may create additional business opportunities.
- We can more readily know the quality of the materials used and the health and labor standards followed in the manufacture of locally produced goods. Recent recalls highlight the challenges of quality control for items made overseas.

Strategies

Source building products manufactured within 500 miles of your project and strive not to go beyond these boundaries. While the Pacific Northwest is rich with resources we can't yet accommodate every product required for construction. Commercial carpet, for example, is difficult to find regionally, but can be found recycled.

Ask the product distributor or manufacturer about where items are produced, the method of extraction and manufacturing process.

To qualify for LEED® MR Credit 5.1 be sure that 20% of the value of products and materials purchased are manufactured within 500 miles of the project site.

Visit www.sconnect.org/greenbuilding to find local sources for a wide range of green building products on the NW Regional Green Building Products Matrix.

Overview

Today, technology and transportation have allowed us to tap into a vast global marketplace. This access comes with hidden costs — shipping and hauling freight generate significant greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable design fundamentals include drawing upon and taking advantage of the local culture, climate, and resource base. Purchasing goods and services locally supports our local economy and reduces costs and emissions associated with transportation.

The City of Seattle and Washington State have set ambitious goals to reduce their overall climate footprint. Successful implementation of Seattle's Climate Action Plan will move us substantially toward the Kyoto target. To get to the Kyoto goal, Seattle must cut its emissions by about 680,000 metric tons. By purchasing goods locally, we can lower the overall climate footprint for the Northwest and beyond as well as substantially benefiting the local and regional economy.



Quick Fact

Each dollar spent locally generates five dollars of local economic activity.

LEED®-CI v2.0: Commercial Interiors

By implementing various regional resource concepts, your project may be eligible for the following:

Materials & Resources

MR Credits 5.1–5.2 Regional Materials

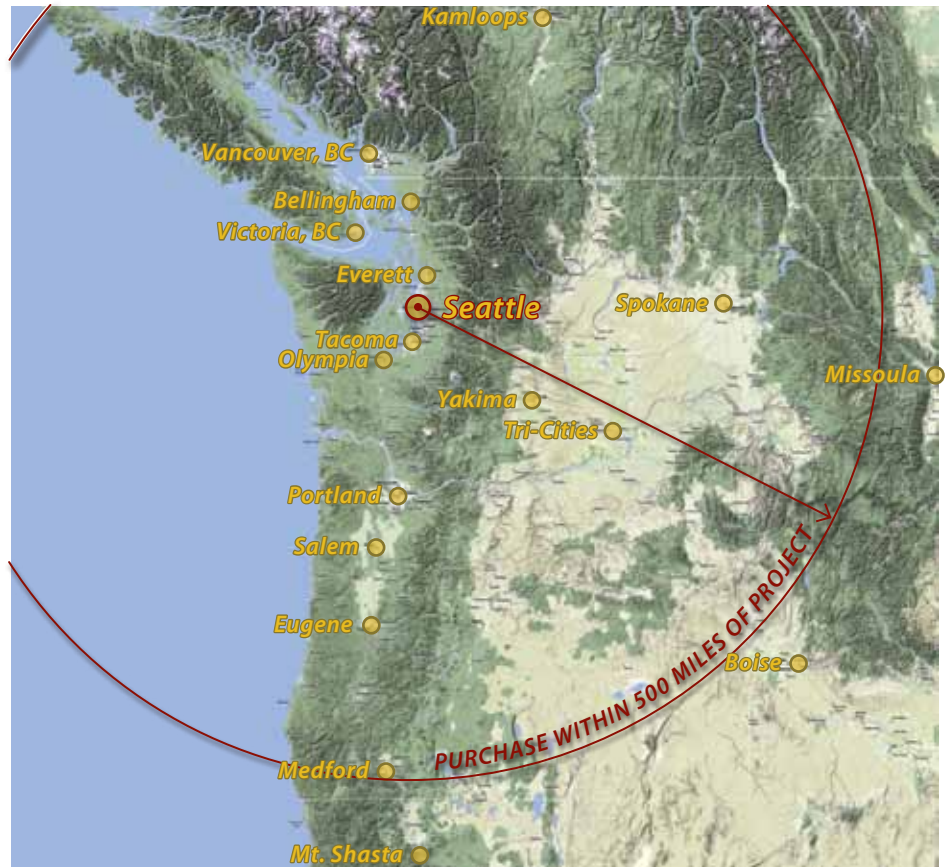


CASE STUDY

REI Flagship Store

REI chose to use many environmentally responsible materials within its new store. Fixtures were made of particle board with no added urea-formaldehyde or FSC-certified wood. The timber accents and trellis canopies were made with salvaged wood, as well as engineered wood made from small, rapidly renewable plants and trees. The concrete structure was left exposed to reduce material consumption. Where finish materials were necessary to meet code, the project team selected products with low VOC emissions. VOC emissions from carpets are below limits set by the Carpet and Rug Institute.

Materials manufactured locally and materials with high recycled content were used extensively throughout the store. This includes used wood products from independently certified, well-managed forests for finish carpentry. Materials with an integral finish were also incorporated into the project to avoid added stains and sealants which often have high levels of toxic chemicals.



Checklist

- Purchase products and materials manufactured within 500 miles of the project.

Resources

www.sconnect.org/greenbuilding Click on the NW Regional Green Building Products Matrix for a list of regional products and manufacturer contact information.

www.metrokc.gov/procure/green Search this Environmentally Preferred Purchasing guide under Construction and Landscaping for the type of product you're interested in and denote those manufactured in the Pacific Northwest.