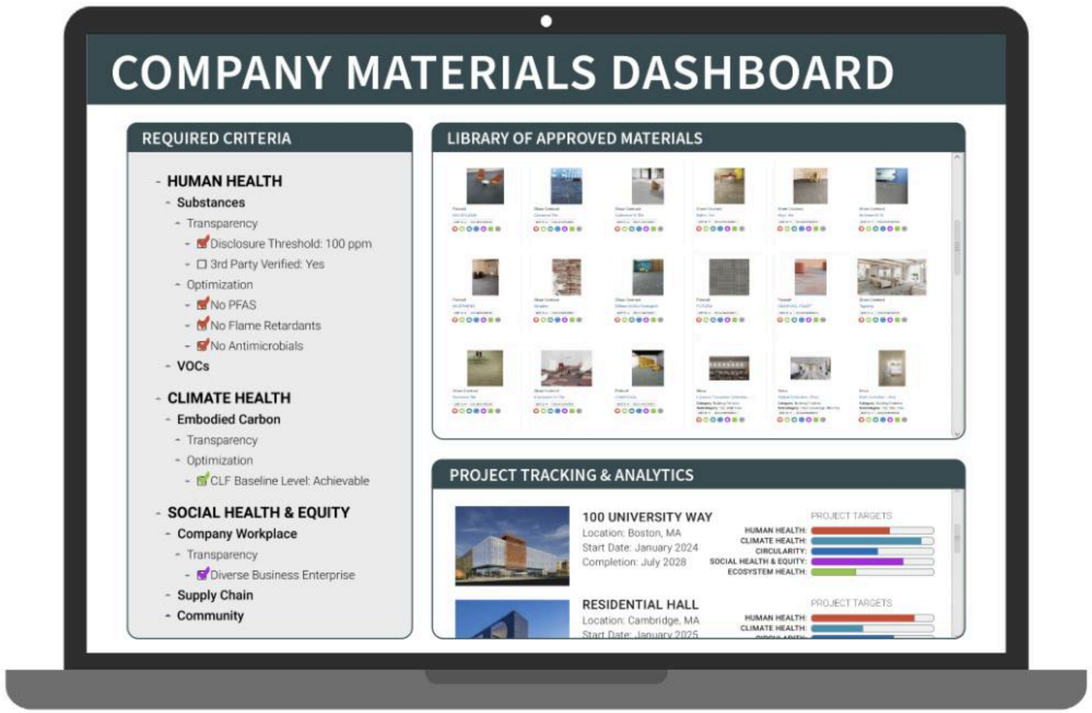
Common Materials Framework

AEC/O Digitization Strategies for Automated Materials Vetting

mindful MATERIALS

What is Automated Decision Making in Workflow?



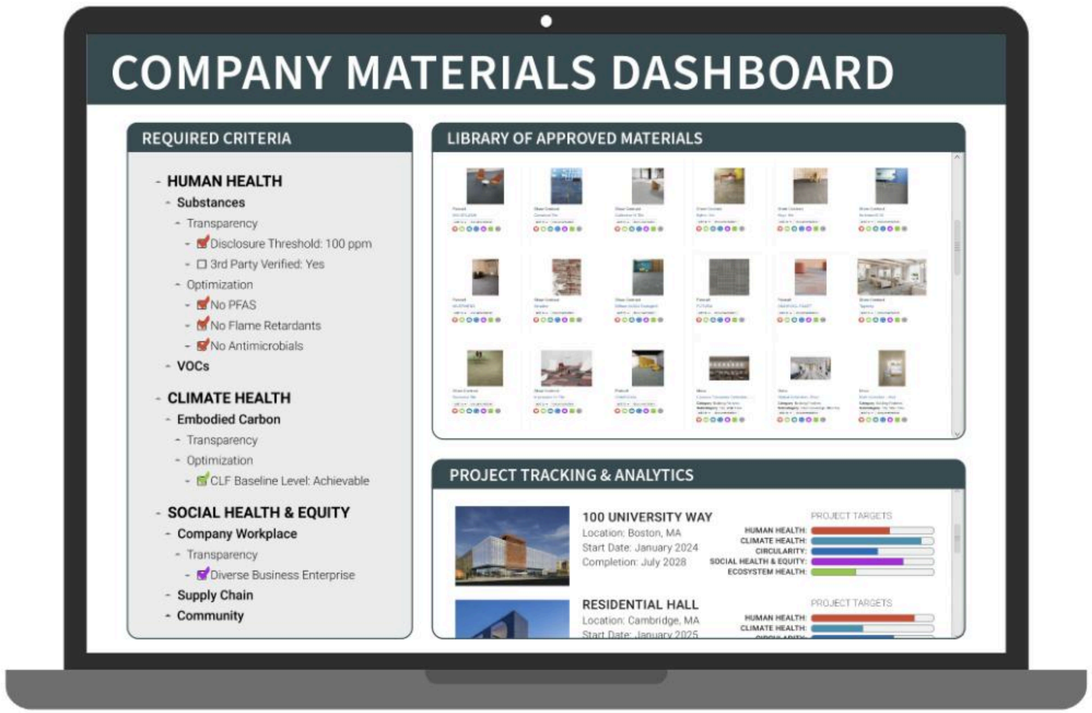
Automated materials vetting, decision making and reporting in materials workflows starts with the Common Materials Framework (CMF), which organizes certifications and verified product data by impact area, and is integrated across tech platforms

Once this data is structured, decision-making criteria can be built on top of it (see guidance on how to create and/or align your material requirement program with the CMF here), enabling materials to be automatically evaluated against program or project requirements.

This creates automated compliance—products are flagged as meeting or not meeting specific material requirements without manual review. The natural next step is moving from compliance to automated tracking and reporting, giving teams real-time visibility into progress toward sustainability goals.

Tip: Using the Common Ask and Common Give resources helps accelerate the flow of organized, digitized data into workflow tools—a key benefit of aligning your program. Without this shared approach, data often remains siloed, static, or nonexistent.

The Power of Digitization in Materials Decision-Making



Digitizing the materials decision-making process delivers tangible benefits across project teams and workflows, including but not limited to:

1. It saves time, energy, and money by streamlining what was once a manual, fragmented process.
2. Simplifies compliance for green building projects and beyond, while streamlined AIA Materials Pledge reporting helps firms meet commitments with less effort.
3. By working within the same tools, project teams reduce misalignment and could avoid last-minute value engineering changes.
4. Digitization and alignment with the CMF also makes it easier to educate employees, shifting the focus from navigating “certification soup” to understanding the true impact and value of materials.
5. Ultimately, this approach supports smarter decisions, for less effort, that reduce the environmental footprint of the built environment (win, win, win).

Why this guide?

Digitizing the materials vetting process isn't just about efficiency; it's about unlocking a connected, reliable data ecosystem that actually works across projects and programs. Our 2025 Data Ecosystem Report makes it clear: until we align around a common way of requesting and sharing product information, automated materials vetting will remain out of reach.

The Common Ask and Common Give Templates are the foundation. Without them, project teams will continue to face duplicative requests, inconsistent responses, and manual compliance checks that slow down decision-making. With them, you and your teams gain access to structured, CMF-aligned data that can be trusted, compared, and plugged directly into workflows.

This guidance is designed to help you leverage those tools, build decision-making criteria on top of consistent data, and move from manual review to automated compliance, tracking, and reporting. The result? Faster, clearer decisions, reduced friction across teams, and measurable progress toward your sustainability goals.

Things to Consider When Getting Started

When you're thinking about how to bring materials data into your workflow, a few key considerations can help you choose the right approach. These questions will frame your decision-making and set you up to use tools and data effectively:

What's your capacity and budget for ongoing investment? Every firm has different levels of resources to dedicate to materials data and vetting. Some tools and services are free, while others require subscriptions or service contracts. Think about the return you need over time: saving hours across multiple projects, reducing long-term risk, or making it easier to consistently meet client sustainability goals.

How big is your team, and what capacity do you have? Team size and expertise will shape how you can interact with data. If you're a solo designer or part of a small team, you'll want tools that are easy to navigate and don't require heavy technical lift. Larger firms with dedicated sustainability or specification staff may want more robust platforms that support deeper data integration. If your team is stretched thin, consider leveraging industry databases, ecolabels, or external consultants to fill the gaps.

How do you want to interact with the data? Different platforms offer different levels of engagement. Some are designed for quick lookups—filtering by certifications, impacts, or product attributes—while others embed directly into specifications or BIM workflows. Be clear about whether you need fast access to product claims, deeper impact data for reporting, or seamless integration into your existing design and project delivery process.

Navigating the Options

mM Technology Partners
LFRT Peer Insights
LFRT Peer Insights-Workflow Tool Functionality

mM Technology Partners

mM Technology Partners are technology platforms that integrate, or will be integrating, the CMF into their tools, helping connect, structure, and scale product data across the industry. Their role is to support the Data Ecosystem by making sustainability data easier to access, compare, and use—while reinforcing mM's nonprofit mission and neutrality.

Core Principles of Partnership

Neutral + Nonprofit Alignment: Partners align with mM's role as steward, not gatekeeper.

Open but Controlled: Broad adoption of the CMF with safeguards against misuse.

Value Exchange: Partners benefit from CMF integration while contributing back (financial support, data quality, attribution, services).

Simplicity + Scalability: Agreements are streamlined, repeatable, and adaptable to multiple partners.

Who Are Our Partners?

See mM's growing network of Tech Partners.

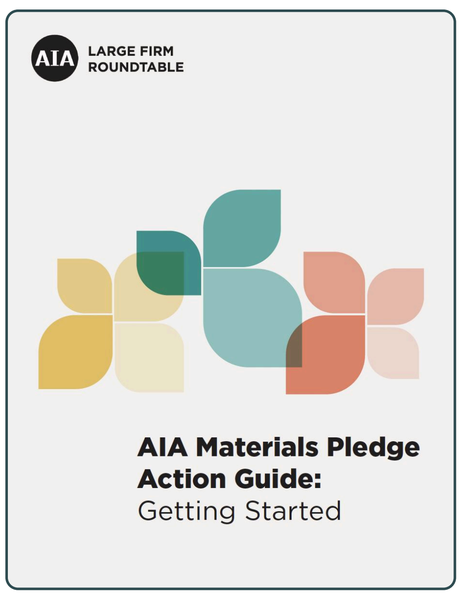
Please note, this system—and the technology platforms that support it—are evolving. Each organization should evaluate which platform best meets its needs as the ecosystem continues to grow.

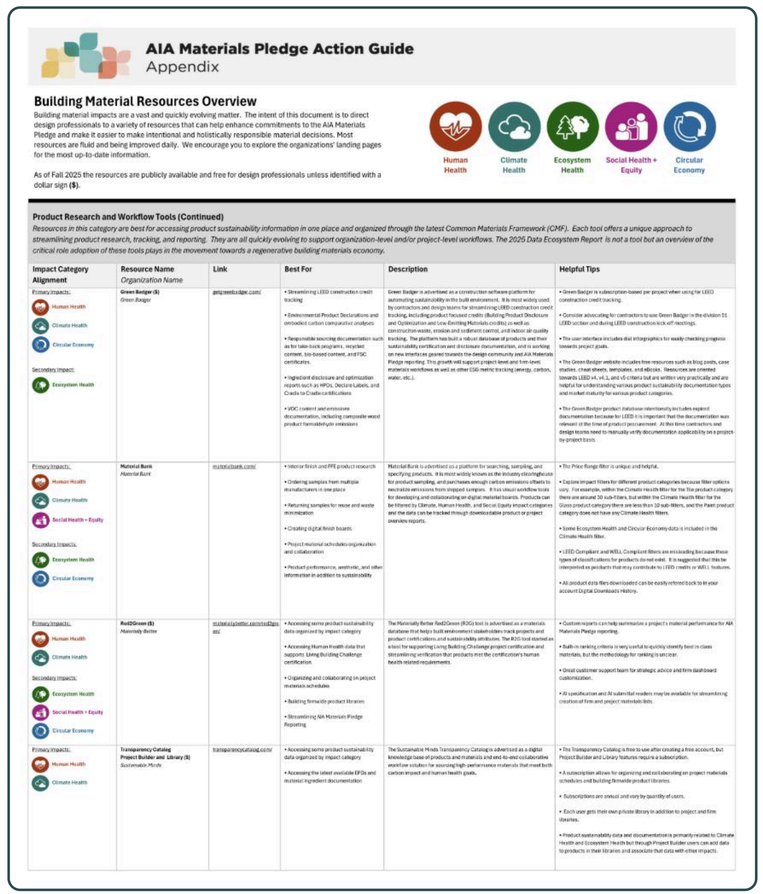
LFRT Peer Insights

The Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) has released its AIA Materials Pledge Action Guide*, a resource designed to help firms turn the pledge into action. Working in tandem with the CMF Implementation Toolkit, it provides practical steps at the individual, team, and firm level—ensuring alignment across the industry as we move toward more responsible materials.

As part of the LFRT AIA Materials Pledge Action Guide, this summary highlights the functionality of various workflow tools for your consideration in its appendix.

In collaboration with mM, the LFRT will be updating this overview on a quarterly basis and into the future to ensure updates reflect both mM Tech Partnership as well as functionality differences across tools from a peer perspective.





AIA Materials Pledge Action Guide
Appendix

Building Material Resources Overview

Building material impacts are a vast and quickly evolving matter. The intent of this document is to direct design professionals to a variety of resources that can help enhance commitments to the AIA Materials Pledge and make it easier to make intentional and holistically responsible material decisions. Most resources are fluid and being improved daily. We encourage you to explore the organizations' landing pages for the most up-to-date information.

As of Fall 2025 the resources are publicly available and free for design professionals unless identified with a dollar sign ($).

Human Health · Climate Health · Ecosystem Health · Social Health + Equity · Circular Economy

Product Research and Workflow Tools (Continued)

Resources in this category are best for accessing product sustainability information in one place and organized through the latest Common Materials Framework (CMF). Each tool offers a unique approach to streamlining product research, tracking, and reporting. They are all quickly evolving to support organization-level and/or project-level workflows. The 2025 Data Ecosystem Report is not a tool but an overview of the critical role adoption of these tools plays in the movement towards a regenerative building materials economy.

Impact Category Alignment	Resource Name *Organization Name*	Link	Best For	Description	Helpful Tips
Primary Impacts: Human Health, Climate Health, Circular Economy. Secondary Impact: Ecosystem Health	**Green Badger ($)** *Green Badger*	getgreenbadger.com/	• Streamlining LEED construction credit tracking • Environmental Product Declarations and embodied carbon comparative analysis • Responsible sourcing documentation such as for take-back programs, recycled content, bio-based content, and FSC certificates. • Ingredient disclosure and optimization reports such as HPDs, Declare Labels, and Cradle to Cradle certifications • VOC content and emissions documentation, including composite wood product formaldehyde emissions	Green Badger is advertised as a construction software platform for automating sustainability in the build environment. It is most widely used by contractors and design teams for streamlining LEED construction credit tracking, including product focused credits (Building Product Disclosure and Optimization and Low-Emitting Materials credits) as well as construction waste, erosion and sediment control, and indoor air quality tracking. The platform has built a robust database of products and their sustainability certification and disclosure documentation, and is working on new interfaces geared towards the design community and AIA Materials Pledge reporting. This growth will support project-level and firm-level materials workflows as well as other ESG metric tracking (energy, carbon, water, etc.).	• Green Badger is subscription-based per project when using for LEED construction credit tracking. • Consider advocating for contractors to use Green Badger in the division 01 LEED section and during LEED construction kick-off meetings. • The user interface includes dial infographics for easily checking progress towards project goals. • The Green Badger website includes free resources such as blog posts, case studies, cheat sheets, templates, and eBooks. Resources are oriented towards LEED v4, v4.1, and v5 criteria but are written very practically and are helpful for understanding various product sustainability documentation types and market maturity for various product categories. • The *Green Badger* product database intentionally includes expired documentation because for LEED it is important that the documentation was relevant at the time of product procurement. At this time contractors and design teams need to manually verify documentation applicability on a project-by-project basis.
Primary Impacts: Human Health, Climate Health, Social Health + Equity. Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health, Circular Economy	**Material Bank** *Material Bank*	materialbank.com/	• Interior finish and PPE product research • Ordering samples from multiple manufacturers in one place • Returning samples for reuse and waste minimization • Creating digital finish boards • Project material schedules organization and collaboration • Product performance, aesthetic, and other information in addition to sustainability	Material Bank is advertised as a platform for searching, sampling, and specifying products. It is most widely known as the industry clearinghouse for product sampling, and purchases enough carbon emissions offsets to neutralize emissions from shipped samples. It has visual workflow tools for developing and collaborating on digital material boards. Products can be filtered by Climate, Human Health, and Social Equity impact categories and the data can be tracked through downloadable product or project overview reports.	• The Price Range filter is unique and helpful. • Explore impact filters for different product categories because filter options vary. For example, within the Climate Health filter for the Tile product category there are around 20 sub-filters, but within the Climate Health filter for the Glass product category there are less than 10 sub-filters, and the Paint product category does not have any Climate Health filters. • Some Ecosystem Health and Circular Economy data is included in the Climate Health filter. • LEED Compliant and WELL Compliant filters are misleading because these types of classifications for products do not exist. It is suggested that this be interpreted as products that may contribute to LEED credits or WELL features. • All product data files downloaded can be easily referred back to in your account Digital Downloads History.
Primary Impacts: Human Health, Climate Health. Secondary Impacts: Ecosystem Health, Social Health + Equity, Circular Economy	**RedGreen ($)** *Materially Better*	materialsbetter.earnredgreen/	• Accessing some product sustainability data organized by impact category • Accessing Human Health data that supports Living Building Challenge certification • Organizing and collaborating on project materials schedules • Building firmwide product libraries • Streamlining AIA Materials Pledge Reporting	The Materially Better RedGreen (RGG) tool is advertised as a materials database that helps build environment stakeholders track projects and product certifications and sustainability attributes. The RGG tool started as a tool for supporting Living Building Challenge project certification and streamlining verification that products met the certification's human health related requirements.	• Custom reports can help summarize a project's material performance for AIA Materials Pledge reporting. • Built-in ranking criteria is very useful to quickly identify best in class materials, but the methodology for ranking is unclear. • Great customer support team for strategic advice and firm dashboard customization. • All specifications and AI submittal readers may be available for streamlining creation of firm and project materials lists.
Primary Impacts: Human Health, Climate Health	**Transparency Catalog Project Builder and Library ($)** *Sustainable Minds*	transparencycatalog.com/	• Accessing some product sustainability data organized by impact category • Accessing the latest available EPDs and material ingredient documentation	The Sustainable Minds Transparency Catalog is advertised as a digital knowledge base of products and materials and end-to-end collaborative workflow solution for sourcing high-performance materials that meet both carbon impact and human health goals.	• The Transparency Catalog is free to use after creating a free account, but Project Builder and Library features require a subscription. • A subscription allows for organizing and collaborating on project materials schedules and building firmwide product libraries. • Subscriptions are annual and vary by quantity of users. • Each user gets their own private library in addition to project and firm libraries. • Product sustainability data and documentation is primarily related to Climate Health and Ecosystem Health but through Project Builder users can add data to products in their libraries and associate that data with other impacts.

*mM and its staff have not played a role in the development of the LFRT report or subsequent appendix resources

As we look to the future, we see sustainability data seamlessly embedded into the tools and workflows of your teams—powered by the Common Materials Framework. And we are only at the beginning.

As we head into 2026, our collective focus is shifting from broad sustainability data toward third-party verified, CMF-aligned data that can be trusted, compared, and automated across projects and programs. This guidance will continue to evolve as we learn with you what works best in practice, refining strategies and tools that support digitized decision-making at scale.

In a not-so-distant future, project teams won't be asking "where do we find the data?" but instead "how do we put this data to work to deliver the best outcomes for people and planet?" Together, we can transform materials vetting from a manual burden into a connected ecosystem that accelerates sustainable impact.

Shared Resources. Common Language. Connected Workflows. Together.