

Sustainability report



GRESPANIA

Introduction

From its very beginning, Grespania's respect for the environment has been one of its fundamental values. Grespania has been a pioneer in the development of environmental sustainability policies, targeting its research and innovation at this field. True to this commitment, it has implemented various environmentally-friendly programmes, such as the installation of its wastewater treatment system, the cogeneration project or planning its tile manufacturing plant in line with the zero-waste concept.

Throughout its history, Grespania has been firmly committed to developing strategies aimed at minimizing the impact of its production processes on the environment. To that end, it has always used natural raw materials of the highest quality and has developed processes involving the most advanced technologies.

Grespania's current range of products includes floor tiles that minimize the generation of waste during construction projects, and wall tiles that purify the air in the atmosphere.

Keenly aware of the need to slow climate change and protect the environment, Grespania has incorporated into its business policy and its strategic plans measures that help bring about short-, medium- and long-term improvements in the environment and in society.



8 Contributing through energy assessment systems in construction

8.1 LEED CERTIFICATION

As a company concerned about sustainable architecture, Grespania contributes to improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings or new builds by incorporating the new LEED standards throughout the life cycle of its products, from the design phase to final installation.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard is the most widely-used building certification system in the United States, and it is becoming increasingly widespread in more than 95 countries worldwide, including Spain, the United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, Norway and Poland. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED credits certify the requirements for a building to be able to "operate" in energy self-sufficiency and sustainability mode, and to generate minimal environmental impact throughout its entire life cycle.

The system is based on assigning credits or points for each of the requirements that characterize the sustainability of the building. The total number of points determines the level of certification awarded. The possible qualification levels for buildings are as follows:

- 40 to 49 points: CERTIFIED
- 50 to 59 points: SILVER
- 60 to 79 points: GOLD
- More than 80 points: PLATINUM



As can be seen, it is the buildings that obtain LEED certification and not the individual products used, but Grespania's ceramic tiles contribute to the achievement of the following LEED credits:

• MR 1.2 Building reuse

One of the main properties of ceramic is its durability, meaning its lifespan matches that of the building where it is installed. This can help a construction project score 1 point, contributing to building reuse by retaining a percentage of its elements, including ceramic tiles.

• MR 2.1 y 2.2. Construction and demolition waste management

Once a building has reached the end of its lifespan, ceramic can be used as a filler material since it is inert. If 50% or 75% of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste is recycled or recovered in a building, 1 or 2 LEED points, respectively, will be awarded.

• Existence of an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

Up to 1 point can be scored for the use of at least 20 permanently installed products with an EPD, from at least five different manufacturers. Grespania's products have Type III EPD and qualify as a complete product for the purposes of calculating credit scores.



• MR 4.1 and 4.2. Recycled material content

LEED requirements stipulate that the builder must use materials with a minimum recycled content. If the sum of post-consumer recycled content (that is, when the product has become waste) plus half of the pre-consumer recycled content (that is, at the time the product is manufactured or constructed) represent at least 10% or more (by weight) of total project materials, 1 point is awarded. If they represent 20% or more, 2 points are awarded.

• MR 5.1 and 5.2. Regional materials

Ceramic products can help to achieve 1 or 2 points if 10% or 20%, respectively, of the total cost of the project materials is extracted, manufactured or recovered within an 800-km radius of the project site. This reduces the environmental impact caused by the transportation of these materials.

• SS 7.1 Heat island effect

The aim is to mitigate the heat island effect (the temperature difference between cities and rural areas). Among the different strategies that LEED proposes in this section is the use of paving materials with a Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) value above 29, which earns 1 point. Since light-coloured ceramic products have high SRI values, they can be used instead of traditional exterior paving materials, minimizing thermal absorption and the heat island effect.



• EQ 4.3 Low-VOC-emitting materials

There is growing concern about the potential impact of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) on human health. LEED seeks to reduce the amount of indoor air in a building that is irritating or dangerous for users' health and well-being. Specifically, the use of non- or low-VOC-emitting materials can help reduce problems with air caused by the vaporization of carbon compounds. Therefore, the use of ceramic products for general tiling inside a building earns the maximum score in this category, 1 point.

• ID 1 Innovation in design

Up to 5 points are awarded for exceeding credit requirements and/or presenting a project strategy that is not covered by the LEED rating system but that provides quantifiable environmental benefits. For example, choosing tiles with "H&C Tiles" technology can merit up to 5 LEED points.





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GRESPANIA S.A. uses a
managment system within its'
facilities of Nules, Moncofar and
Castellón in accordance with
ISO 9001:2015 certificate N° 44
100 127697 and ISO 14001:2015
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