

Black-top Manufacturing + Paving = GREEN Credit

American Asphalt Company's *Green Profile*

Although you might not think of asphalt and paving as green, there ARE several ways in which asphalt manufacturers and paving contractors contribute green design, materials and processes for LEED Certification. American Asphalt Company has recently evaluated its ability to contribute LEED points in an ongoing effort to respect the environment and keep pace with the latest industry advances.

Based on a review of LEED-NC, American Asphalt Company understands that paving contractors/manufacturers have the ability to contribute points in three areas of the LEED rating system which include: Sustainable Sites, Materials and Resources and Innovation and Design Process.

A paving contractor/manufacturer can contribute **two points** in **Sustainable Sites** by increasing **Stormwater Design**. This is done through the creation of paved surfaces for which water is distributed through the asphalt into a recharge bed until it can infiltrate into the soil. This process increases water recycling through groundwater recharge and prevents soil contamination by way of the asphalt's collection of pollutants such as oil, grease and salt. The determination of the site's pre-construction impervious percentage (which is needed to calculate the new percentage for improvement) as well as design of a necessary recharge bed must be completed by an engineer. American Asphalt Company's supply and placement of porous asphalt, which the company has been manufacturing and paving with since 1986, in conjunction with the necessary engineering, will enable contribution of these points.

An additional **one point** in **Sustainable Sites** can be contributed by a paving contractor/manufacturer for reducing the **Heat Island Effect**. The point contribution requires that 50% of the new pavement surface have a solar reflectance index (SRI) greater or equal to .29. It is possible to increase the SRI by coating asphalt. American Asphalt Company currently does not use special coatings on paving projects.

In **Materials & Resources** it is possible for a paving contractor/manufacturer to contribute **two points each** for **Construction Waste Management, Materials Reuse, Recycled Content** and **Regional Materials**. The Construction Waste Management points can be earned if 50% (1 point) or 75% (2 points) of the milled asphalt from the job is recycled. Currently American Asphalt Company recycles 100% of a project's milled asphalt thereby contributing the maximum of two points in this category.

Materials Reuse points can be earned if 10% (1 point) or 20% (2 points) of the existing pavement on a parking lot is milled and reused on that same lot. Similarly, Recycled Content points are earned by paving jobs with asphalt that has 10% recycled content (1 point) or 20% recycled content (2 points). As a standard, American Asphalt Company follows the NJ State Specification for recycled content in asphalt which allows 25% in binder & base courses and 15% in surface course asphalt. However, on all private work American Asphalt Company is well equipped to increase recycled content to 20% in the surface course, thereby maximizing point contribution in this area. Although American Asphalt Company both recycles and reuses materials to provide the highest points in each of these categories, on any given project points can be earned in either of these categories, not both. All of the materials American Asphalt Company uses in the manufacturing of asphalt are produced regionally enabling contribution of the two Regional Materials Points.

Finally, with regard to **Innovation & Design** a paving contractor/manufacturer can contribute **four points** if the asphalt manufacturing and paving exceed expectations or areas not addressed in the other categories. These points can be earned through the manufacturing and use of warm mix asphalt, a green advanced asphalt mix which reduces the use of natural resources as well as emissions. American Asphalt Company can manufacture and pave projects using warm mix asphalt and continues to follow advances in warm mix asphalt technology.

