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news bites

► **Teragren** recently announced a manufacturing adhesive alternative to further enhance the environmental attributes of its products. Teragren's bamboo flooring, panels and veneer can now be specially manufactured with an adhesive that is formaldehyde-free, allowing all of the company's products to qualify for two credits through the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, the national benchmark for design, construction and operation of green buildings.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently special ordered Teragren's formaldehyde-free bamboo flooring and panels for the new EPA Region 8 headquarters in Denver. The EPA headquarters anticipates LEED-Gold Certification from the USGBC, the second-highest level of certification under the Green Building Rating System.

At this time, Teragren bamboo products created with the alternative adhesive must be special-ordered because of the associated adhesive costs. The exception is Teragren's Synergy Strand Bamboo flooring, which already qualifies for two LEED credits. The company aims to introduce new adhesives in all of its standard products in the near future.