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Using Charlotte Pipe Cast Iron Products Can Earn Specifiers LEED Rating System Points

CHARLOTTE, NC – January 12, 2004 – Charlotte Pipe and Foundry is now listed in the *GreenSpec*® Directory, a guide to materials and building practices that contribute to creating environmentally-friendly buildings. In order to achieve the listing, Charlotte Pipe certified that its cast iron pipe and fittings products are made from 100% post-consumer recycled material.

The past few years have seen a trend toward green, or environmentally sustainable, building practices. The U.S. Government put a spotlight on the issue by requiring that federal government projects use green building practices. Many state and local agencies also have enacted their own initiatives, offering incentives to encourage green building practices.

The Green Building Council administers a certification program called the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system (LEED). There are four LEED certification levels depending on the number of environmental "points" achieved by the building – from the planning stages, through construction to building completion, and even into the building's useful life. Points are awarded within six different point categories, including Materials and Resources.

Specifying engineers can achieve a point with just 5% of the value of materials used being of post-consumer recycled content. For most projects, the engineer can achieve this credit simply by specifying cast iron soil pipe. Specifying cast iron can contribute to the achievement of points in other categories as well, including alternatives to PVC.

The nation's leading maker of cast iron and plastic pipe and fittings, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry offers the industry's broadest product offering of DWV and pressure plumbing products. Charlotte Pipe is a major recycler in the state of North Carolina. Each year, the company prevents more than 350 million pounds of scrap iron and steel from entering overcrowded landfills. The company also operates its own water treatment facility, where it recycles and re-uses 100% of its process water. The company received a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Blue Thumb Award in 2000 and a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Environmental Excellence in Industry Award in 2001 for its continued efforts at reducing city water demand and recycling 100 percent of its treated process water.

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