

Will Schools LEED the Way Toward More Steel in Tomorrow's Buildings?

Increased demand for steel in Canam's shops for projects for secondary schools, college facilities and other education-related buildings bears an interesting correlation to more requests for documentation of recycled content for the popular U.S. Green Building Council's certification program.

So far in 2008 requests for LEED documentation at Canam increased 75% over requests tracked in previous years; and the number of schools fabricated at the company's four plants showed increases each year since 2005.

Many states such as Maryland, home state of Canam's U.S. headquarters plant in [Point of Rocks, MD](#) have passed regulations requiring new schools to meet one of the environmental certification programs. "How many states have these regulations--this is a question I get asked at least once every week!" said a spokesman for the Council of Educational Facility Planners International, an organization for school planning officials.

A Maryland architect who designs many schools for one of the country's largest school districts, Montgomery County, MD, said that the preferences of the school district, not LEED points, continue to "drive the bus" for school design choices. "Some schools are