



KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is the KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program(ESP)?

The ESP recognizes cabinet manufacturers who produce cabinets that meet criteria for indoor air quality and resource conservation as well as conduct their operations to minimize their impact on the environment and support their local communities.

How does a cabinet manufacturer qualify?

The program sets out five categories of environmental performance that a manufacturer can earn points in by meeting specified criteria. Points are awarded for meeting criteria in each category and a manufacturer must accumulate at least 80 points to qualify for certification. Each year the manufacturer must submit supporting documentation to re-certify.

What are the criteria?

The five categories are:

- **Air Quality:** this recognizes the use of low formaldehyde particleboard, medium density fiberboard(MDF) and plywood used.
- **Resource Management – Product:** this category awards credit for using particleboard and MDF made from recycled/recovered fiber. It also gives credit for the use of certified hardwood and efforts to increase its availability.
- **Resource Management – Process:** this category credits programs for recycling wastes and actively reducing them. It also encourages the use of by-products for generating energy and energy conservation programs.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** this category encourages manufacturers to have a documented environmental

policy and system for managing their environmental impacts. It also identifies companies who review their vendors and contractors practices as well as encouraging the use of renewable or recycled materials.

- **Community Relations:** This section recognizes efforts by manufacturers to support their communities through support of service and charitable organizations and those who are committed to complying with applicable rules and regulations.



Why did KCMA develop the program?

With the growing interest in “green homes” and development of nationwide standards to define and certify them it became clear that it was in the best interest of the industry to define what “green” means in terms of kitchen and bathroom cabinets. This standard was developed by the Association and is closely aligned with the National Association of Home Builders Green Home Building Guidelines (2005) criteria.

Does the rating help our customers (home builders) qualify in the “green home” certification programs?

At this point in time the rating in and of itself is not specifically recognized by any of the green home standards. KCMA has been in discussions with NAHB staff to get this standard incorporated by reference in the next revision to their guidelines. Some of the conditions used to qualify for the ESP program will also help a builder/home owner qualify for points in some green home programs. This needs to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Resources for further information:

www.kcma.org