



geOTALK™

Tensor International, a LEEDer in Green Site Development Solutions

GRADE SEPARATION SYSTEMS OFFER POTENTIAL FOR LEED CERTIFICATION CREDITS

If building construction has a primary color now, it's green – and it couldn't have come at a better time. After all, buildings have a profound effect on the environment and our available resources. According to research from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), buildings account for 65% of electricity consumption, 36% of our primary energy use, 39% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials usage and 30% of waste output.

Thankfully, both the public and private sectors have taken notice. A combination of government initiatives, improvements in sustainable materials and heightened public awareness has accelerated both interest and development in green building. One measure of that is the USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System™ developed to promote high-performance, sustainable buildings. Launched in 1999, this independent, third-party verification program recognizes achievements in five key areas: sustainable site development; water savings energy efficiency; materials selection; and indoor environmental quality. LEED certification demonstrates that a building is, as the USGBC claims, "environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work." Indeed, LEED is becoming a global standard, with certifiable building projects now underway in 41 countries.

The benefits of green building are many, including reduced operating costs, enhanced asset value, improved worker comfort, productivity and satisfaction and, of course, recognized environmental leadership in the building industry. Tensor International Corporation (TIC) has responded to the green building movement in a major way. "It is our goal to be an outstanding corporate citizen dedicated to developing earth stabilization solutions that are structurally sound and environmentally responsible," remarked Bob Vevoda, company

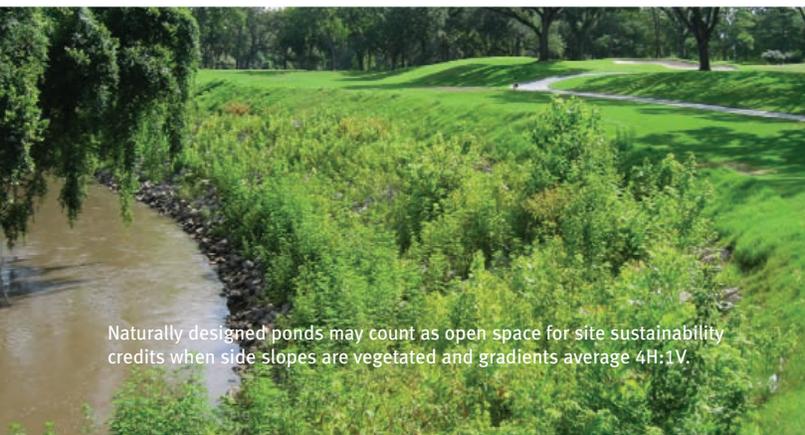


President and Managing Director. "To further this goal, we will continue to promote to our customers, contractors, shareholders and industry our commitment to environmental responsibility and project quality. The industry is asking for it, and Tensor® Grade Separation Systems and solutions are providing the means to achieve it."

As a world leader in the development of technology-driven site solutions, Tensor International offers several grade separation systems that, when used in accordance with LEED criteria, can help earn points toward LEED project certification in the "New Construction and Major Renovations" category. Our Sierra® Slope Retention System, SierraScape® Retaining Wall System and Mesa® Retaining Wall Systems can help qualify for LEED credits in select sustainable sites (SS), water efficiency (WE) and materials reuse (MR) classifications. Each of these mechanically stabilized earth systems features Tensor® Uniaxial (UX) Geogrid as a key component.

SYSTEMS POINT THE WAY TOWARD LEED CERTIFICATION

Tensor's Grade Separation Systems qualify for consideration in eight specific LEED classifications, offering the opportunity to earn one point each toward LEED certification. These include four classifications in the SS category addressing habitat protection or restoration, maximizing



Naturally designed ponds may count as open space for site sustainability credits when side slopes are vegetated and gradients average 4H:1V.



Many of Tensor's Systems utilizing Uniaxial Geogrid can be backfilled with recycled concrete or other on-site materials to utilize the materials reuse classification.



geOTALK™

of open space, stormwater design quantity control and stormwater design quality control.

In these applications, our vegetated Sierra System and SierraScape System can be used to:

- Maximize required setbacks
- Conserve existing natural areas and restore damaged areas
- Provide a natural habitat for native plants and ground animals and promote biodiversity
- Provide a high ratio of open space to a development footprint
- Maximize stormwater management while minimizing land use through the construction of detention ponds (includes Mesa Systems)
- Manage stormwater runoff to minimize disruption and pollution of natural water flows with the construction of detention ponds (includes Mesa Systems)

Similarly, the Sierra System and SierraScape System can be used for two LEED Water Efficiency classifications: reduction of natural water resources for landscape irrigation by 50% and eliminating altogether the use of natural water resources for landscape irrigation. In these applications, vegetated systems can serve to:

- Maximize required setbacks
- Conserve existing natural areas and restore damaged areas
- Provide a natural habitat for native plants and ground animals

Finally, the Mesa Systems, along with the Sierra System and SierraScape

System, qualify for use in two ME classifications: diverting 50% of site development waste from landfill or incinerator disposal or diverting it by 75%. In these applications, each of our three systems can be backfilled with recycled concrete or other on-site materials with proper engineering. Tensor® Structural Geogrids are highly resistant to chemical and biological attack and their homogenous structure provides a very durable product that can be installed in a wide range of environments. This high survivability allows Tensor Geogrids to be used with many recycled materials.

“It is our goal to be an outstanding corporate citizen dedicated to developing earth stabilization solutions that are structurally sound and environmentally responsible.” – Bob Vevoda, TIC President and Managing Director

“Understanding the LEED program and respecting what this new design practice is all about are important to Tensor,” commented Jon Ridgway, Tensor International’s Director of Grade Separation Solutions. “Tensor’s core mission is to bring proven, practical solutions to common site development problems. We take pride in the fact that these solutions can also be environmentally friendly compared to conventional approaches while helping designers and architects meet LEED certification.”

For additional information on how the Sierra Slope System and SierraScape System can help you reach your LEED certification goals, please reference the “LEED® for New Construction & Major Renovation” manual (version 2.2) published by the U.S. Green Building Council, sections: SS Credit 5.1, 5.2, 6.1 and 6.2; WE Credit 1.1 and 1.2; and MR Credit 2.1 and 2.2. Complete details on the LEED Rating Systems and project certification are available at www.usgbc.org.



Planting Tensor Grade Separation Solutions with natural vegetative plants helps reduce or eliminate the need for landscape irrigation.



The Sierra® Slope System and SierraScape® System can help maximize required setbacks while conserving natural areas.