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## Contract furniture leader Hightower expands sustainability focus “Material transparency” driving ambitious initiatives, new certifications

SEATTLE, WA, April 15, 2019—Investing in increased material transparency and certification assets, today Hightower launched new website resources aimed at educating their architecture and design network.

Co-founder and CEO, Natalie Hartkopf shared her enthusiasm about Hightower’s sustainability focus: “We are excited to support the growing movement to close the loop between manufacturers and the A&D community, communicating the importance of specifying healthy furniture.”

### Highlights of current sustainability initiatives from Hightower:

- Development and expansion of Red List Free claims within product families, with 6 Red List Free product families included in the Hightower furniture collection.
- Healthier Hospitals Initiative: 3 product families are currently included with more in the works.
- Indoor Advantage Gold certified: with 48 products and growing, these IAG Certified products can contribute to LEED and WELL.
- Tangible changes have been made to improve the health of Hightower products overall including:
  - Applying water-based clear coat rather than solvent-based.
  - Switching to a formaldehyde-free paper-backing.
  - Moving away from the use of PVC edge-banding.
- Hightower has included more than 30 individual suppliers in a supply chain analysis to better understand every product ingredient.
- Dozens of products are currently included on mindful MATERIALS, expediting specifiers’ product searches.

In 2018, Michaela Shaw joined Hightower as Sustainability Manager. Ms. Shaw brings strategic business acumen plus consulting experience in material ingredient reporting and product certifications to the US-based contract furniture design and manufacturing company.

“Our conversations about improving transparency in sourcing and materiality are focused on our people—our clients and our team members who build and work with our products,” commented Ms. Shaw. “Since the beginning, Hightower’s goal has been thoughtful design, so the emphasis of delivering on that goal with material health in mind is particularly exciting to me.”

Recognizing program-wide sustainability is a journey, Ms. Shaw added, “The work we’ve done so far is only the start; our goals for the future are ambitious, which we believe they should be!” To learn more about Hightower’s commitment to sustainable design and manufacturing, view [hightoweraccess.com/sustainability](https://hightoweraccess.com/sustainability).

### **About Hightower:**

Hightower is a US-based, award-winning provider of contract furniture. Bold, beautiful pieces aimed at improving workspace functionality have fueled the company's growth since its inception in 2003. Family-founded and operated, Hightower's young, female leadership includes an award-winning CEO who is committed to offering seamless access to fresh, international designs for the workplace. The company's innovative design solutions empower architects and designers to stand out in their field.

Learn more at [www.hightoweraccess.com](https://www.hightoweraccess.com) or contact us at +1 (816) 286-1051

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