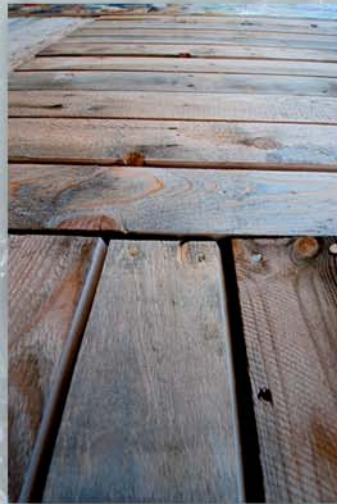




IS IT REALLY GREEN?

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but how can you be sure of their accuracy?



breeam



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The first edition of The Green Guide series in 1996 aimed to provide a simple, *generic* 'green guide' to the environmental impacts of building materials which was easy-to-use and soundly based on numerical data.

But many manufacturers wanted to demonstrate how their 'specific' product compared to the industry norm and also to find ways to improve the environmental performance of their product.

A reliable way of assessing and certifying materials is needed, both by the specifier fulfilling a sustainability brief, and the manufacturer wanting to demonstrate a product's environmental credentials.

To meet this need the BREEAM Materials team, part of BRE Global, developed the Environmental Profiles Certification Scheme, which provides ongoing, independent assessment and certification of environmental performance.

BRE Global has continuously developed its Environmental Profiling Assessment Method establishing a set of common rules and guidelines for applying Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to UK construction products. BRE Global and material industry stakeholders believe that this method represents the most objective and workable approach to deal with all building materials.



What is 'The Green Guide to Specification'?

The Green Guide to Specification assesses materials and components in terms of their environmental impacts, within comparable specifications, across their entire life cycles.

The Guide presents this information by a rating system, A+ to E. These environmental ratings are based on life cycle assessment (LCA), using BRE Global's Environmental Profiles Methodology. These are *generic* ratings that illustrate a range of typical materials.

This data is mainly provided by the trade association working with its members using data on their individual products to build up *generic* data about a 'typical' product, which can then be used by everyone.

The Guide examines the relative environmental impacts of the construction materials commonly used in six *generic* building types - commercial (eg offices), educational, healthcare, retail, domestic and industrial - covering more than 2000 specifications.

Materials and components are arranged on a building element basis so that you can compare and select from comparable systems or materials as you compile your specification. The elements include, external walls, internal walls and partitions, roofs, ground floors, upper floors, floor finishes, windows, insulation and landscaping.

This extensive catalogue is continually being updated with specifications covering most common building materials.

Full details and listings are available at www.thegreenguide.org.uk

To purchase a printed copy of the Guide, visit www.brebookshop.com

What are Environmental Profiles?

Environmental profiles measure the impacts of a construction material, product or building system throughout its life – not only during its manufacture, but also its use in a building over a typical building lifetime. This includes maintenance and replacement, and also the demolition of the product, taking waste produced and provision for recycling and re-use into account.



How does the Environmental Profiles Methodology work?

The Environmental Profiles Methodology assesses environmental indicators that reflect impacts occurring globally, regionally and locally; in the air, the water and the land; causing damage to humans and to the environment as well as resource depletion. These impacts are placed into weighted issue categories and a measure of environmental impact is attributed to each issue.

Why get Certification?

Manufacturers benefit from certification by being able to positively distinguish their products from the competition in a way that purchasers will recognise and accept. Certification also provides performance benchmarks, a greater understanding of supply chain impacts, and the opportunity to identify and correct inefficiencies and environmental impact 'hotspots'.

Specifiers and Designers benefit by being able to cut through the confusion of claims and counter claims about green credentials. They can confidently select materials, products and systems in the knowledge that their environmental performance will be as specified.

The Process

The manufacturer supplies information about the factory and the manufacturing process. This information is reviewed by BRE Global and verified with a site audit. The LCA modelling to derive the environmental profile then takes around ten weeks. On completion of the profiling, a client obtains a Certificate, a Certified Environmental Profile, a Green Guide rating if the product type is covered in the Guide, and a report of the assessment's findings.

Certified Environmental Profiles are reviewed and verified on an annual basis to ensure that information is both valid and up to date, and are recalculated every three years.

Environmental Profiles give you.....

- Independent 3rd party certification
- Certificate giving you credibility
- Environmental Product Declaration which contains more information which your clients may need to know
- An Ecopoint score
- Green Guide rating
- An Environmental Profiles Report which gives focus for the future
- Product differentiation and competitive advantage
- A means to cut through green claims and counter claims regarding products
- Listing on Greenbooklive.com

Finding certified products - frequently updated lists of building materials, products and systems that have been assessed and certified under the Environmental Profiles Certification Scheme can be viewed free of charge at GreenBookLive.



Greenbooklive.com

This is the unique reference source for environmental products and services.

Greenbooklive is a free online database designed to help specifiers and end users identify products and services that can help to reduce their impact on the environment.

Greenbooklive brings together listings from a number of organisations and delivers comprehensive information on 'green' products and services, some approved to stringent environmental requirements and others based on information provided by manufacturers and trade bodies.

Greenbooklive provides specifiers and end users with an opportunity to select products and services which demonstrate their commitment to environmental best practice.

Certified Environmental Profiles and Responsibly Sourced Construction Products are listed within this site.

For more information please go to www.greenbooklive.com

Are you Sourcing Responsibly?

Consumers are increasingly concerned about where the products they are buying come from – How they are sourced? What impact does their manufacture have on the environment? Have the workforce producing them been treated fairly?

The construction industry is a major consumer of resources and has a large impact on the sustainability of the UK and the wider world. BRE Global has developed a Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products (BES 6001) along with an associated independent third-party certification scheme which provides a means by which construction products can be objectively compared.

What does the Standard achieve?

This Standard and Certification Scheme will help organisations manage and reduce the impacts of any construction product throughout the supply chain.

Specific areas of assessment within the Framework Standard are:

- Organisational management
- Supply chain management
- Environmental and social issues

Certain requirements within these categories are compulsory, with additional points available from a range of issues to achieve higher performance levels. Products are ultimately rated as Pass, Good, Very Good or Excellent.

If you are a product manufacturer Responsible Sourcing Certification will help you:

- Demonstrate leadership
- Improve corporate reputation
- Increase competitiveness
- Improve market share
- Reach more customers

If you are a product purchaser or specifier Responsible Sourcing Certification will help you be confident that:

- Products were sourced responsibly
- No-one in the supply chain has been exploited
- Environmental impacts associated with the product are understood and minimised
- Systems are in place to continually improve the sustainability of your product

The reinforcing steel sector has, in partnership with BRE Global, developed its own responsible sourcing scheme based on BES 6001 called Eco-Reinforcement. You can find out more about this scheme at www.eco-reinforcement.org.

Details of the BES 6001 scheme can be viewed at: www.greenbooklive.com/BES6001

For further information, contact the BREEAM Materials helpdesk on 01923 664462 or email responsiblesourcing@bre.co.uk



BREEAM is the world's longest established and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings. It sets the standards for best practice in sustainable development and demonstrates a level of achievement.

Individual manufacturer specific Certified Environmental Profiles which have been modelled as specifications to obtain Green Guide ratings, can also be used to award credits within BREEAM. Manufacturers choose to obtain a Certified Environmental Profile as a way of demonstrating their environmental performance and obtain specific Green Guide ratings to be used within the BREEAM schemes.

Responsibly Sourced construction products are also recognised by the BREEAM family of certification schemes where credits can be awarded for construction products independently certified through BES 6001.

The Code for Sustainable Homes

In April 2007 the Code for Sustainable Homes (developed by Communities and Local Government (CLG)), replaced BREEAM EcoHomes as the assessment method for new housing in England. The Code (which is based on BREEAM EcoHomes) has a rating scale of one to six stars (Code Level 6 is the government target for 2016) and contains some mandatory levels in key areas like energy and water. A home scoring six stars will be 'zero carbon' – net carbon dioxide emissions resulting from ALL energy used in the dwelling are zero or better. In May 2008, a Code rating of 3 stars was made mandatory for all new social housing in England. In Wales sites of 5 dwellings or more (public or private) must be certified to level 3 (scoring 6 credits in the Ene 1 Issue), with all dwellings regardless of development size having to meet this standard by September 2010. The Code for Sustainable Homes is very similar to BREEAM in that the Green Guide to Specification is the mechanism Code Assessors use to measure the environmental impact of specifications for key building elements. Manufacturers choose to obtain a Certified Environmental Profile as a way of demonstrating their environmental performance and to obtain specific Green Guide ratings to be used within the Code.

For more information regarding The Code for Sustainable Homes visit www.communities.gov.uk/thecode and www.breeam.org

The following table demonstrates the elements which are assessed within BREEAM 2008 and The Code for Sustainable Homes.

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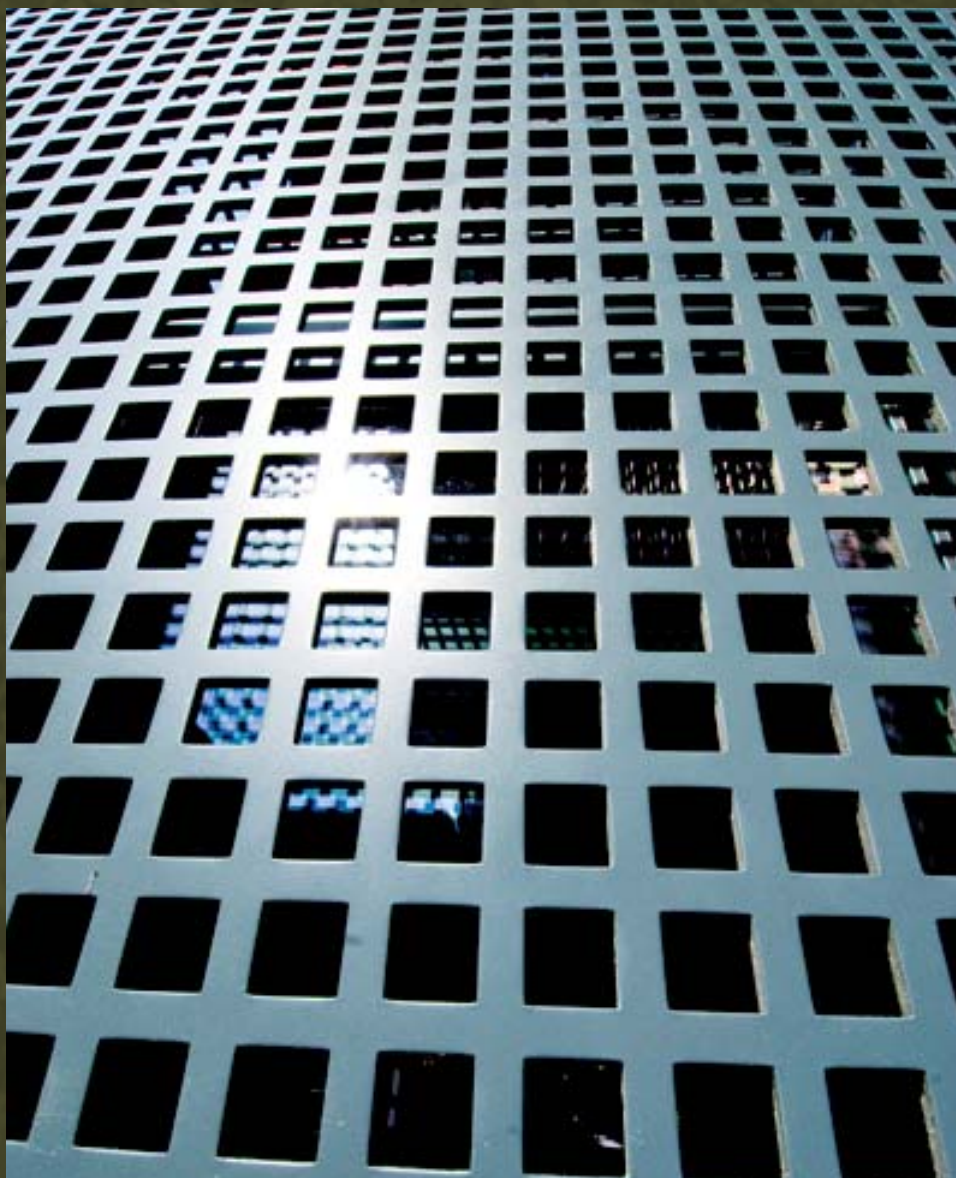


Training and Awareness

The BREEAM Materials team provide a range of training courses and awareness raising seminars regarding the work that is carried out by the team and how this links to other tools such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes. Training can be offered to existing or future clients on Environmental Profiles, LCA, the Green Guide, BREEAM and The Code, Envest2 and many other topics.

BREEAM Materials team also frequently speak at conferences and seminars.

To explore the training options available or discuss more bespoke options, please contact 01923 664462 or visit www.bre.co.uk/events



About BRE Global

BRE Global Limited (incorporating LPCB & BREEAM) is an independent third party approvals body offering certification of fire, security and sustainability products and services to an international market. BRE Global's product testing and approvals are carried out by recognised experts in our world renowned testing laboratories. BRE Global Limited is custodian of a number of world leading brands including:

- LPCB for the approval of fire and security products and services, listed in the Red Books.
- BREEAM the world's leading environmental assessment method for buildings, sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design and has become the de-facto measure of a building's environmental performance.

BRE Global's mission is to 'Protect People, Property and the Planet' and is a trading subsidiary of the BRE Trust, the registered research and education charity which owns the BRE Group.

Further Information

Visit www.breglobal.com

BRE Group Companies

BRE

BRE is a unique research based consultancy and testing organisation offering expertise in virtually every aspect of the built environment. Helping clients create better, safer and more sustainable products, buildings, communities and businesses and supporting the innovation required to achieve this.

www.bre.co.uk

BRE Training

With the ability to draw on hundreds of construction industry experts, the BRE Training team develops and delivers training programmes for the public sector, industry and commerce throughout the UK and overseas. www.bre.co.uk/Training

BRE Ventures

BRE Ventures uses the Group's expertise to take to market new ideas needing development, testing or certification, and to generate income for inventors and all those involved in the commercialisation process. www.bre.co.uk/InnovationDen

Through the S-Plan, the BRE Group of companies has set challenging targets to improve the environmental performance of its businesses. See www.bre.co.uk/splan

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