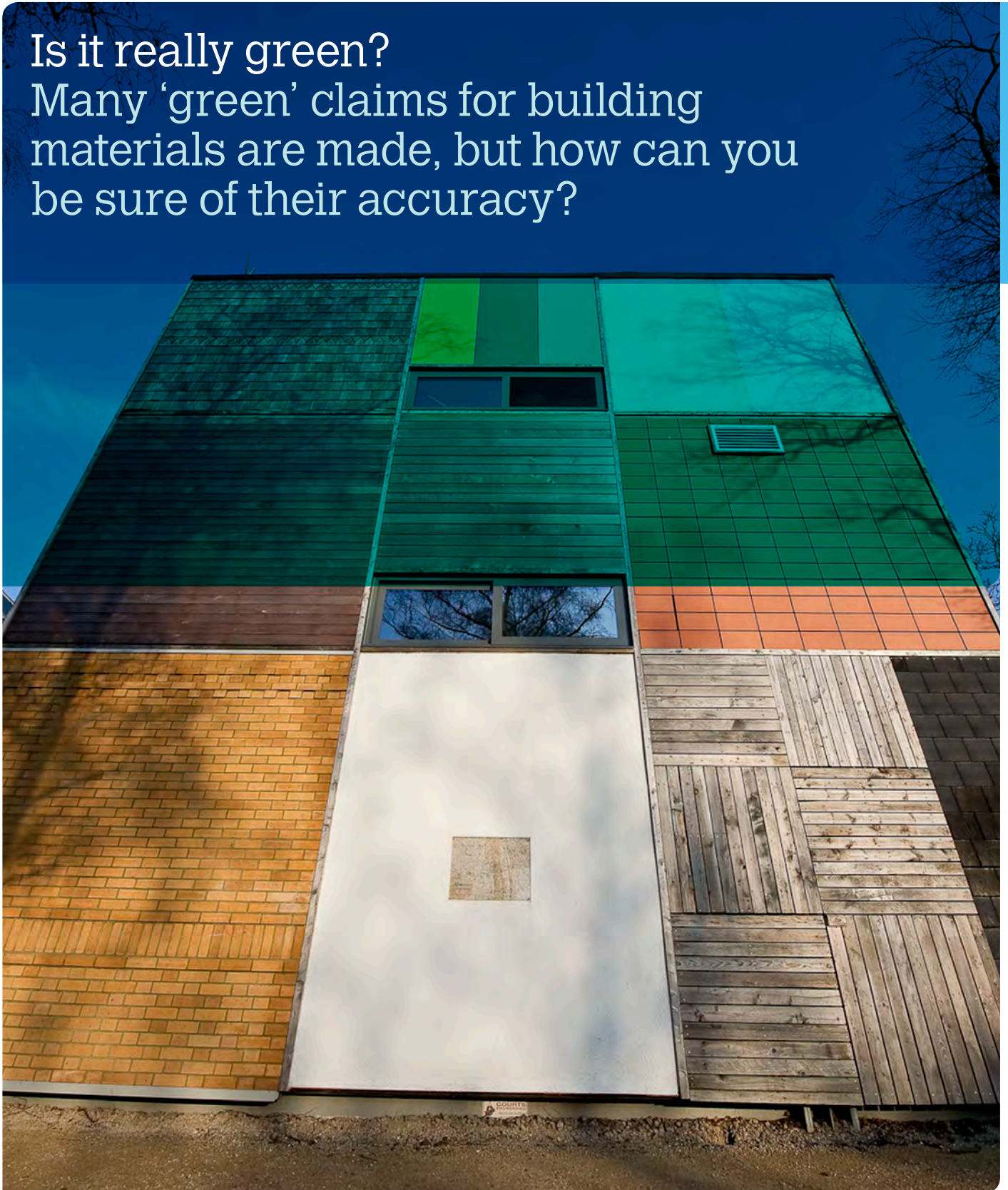


Is it really green?
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The first edition of The Green Guide series in 1996 aimed to provide a simple, generic 'green guide' to the environmental impacts of building materials which was easy-to-use and soundly based on numerical data.

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 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.

Most recently BRE Global has participated in the development of a new suite of European standards via the CEN Technical Committee (CEN TC350) and is aligning its Environmental Profiles methodology with product standard EN15804.

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



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 provide:

- Independent third party certification
- Certificate giving credibility
- Environmental Product Declaration which contains more information which 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.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.

The environmental performance of a construction product cannot be fully assessed until it is considered in the context of a building as the performance of one product is dependent on how it is used. For example, a component that can be easily reclaimed and reused at the end of its life may have a significantly lower life cycle impact than a similar component that cannot be reused. The Environmental Profiles 2008 Methodology makes such judgements easier to understand by combining multiple impacts into a single BRE Ecopoint score.

Analyses conducted in compliance with EN15804 report the results of the life cycle assessment in the form of a standardised Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). The data contained in an EPD conducted in compliance with the EN15804 standard is intended for use as an input for further analysis at the level of a whole building using software tools such as the upcoming IMPACT whole life costing and life cycle assessment tool, which has been jointly developed by BRE Global and software provider IES.

Are you sourcing responsibly?

Consumers are increasingly concerned about where the products they are buying come from. Key areas of concern range across ethical, environmental and societal issues including:

- Where do the materials come from?
- Have they been extracted and processed in an environmentally sensitive manner?
- Have the highest levels of ethics been demonstrated within the supply chain?
- Has the workforce involved in their extraction and production been treated fairly?
- Have all stakeholders in the supply chain been effectively consulted?
- Are communities local to the extraction and manufacture adequately considered?

Highly visible responsible sourcing schemes are now recognised across society – Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Marine Stewardship Council, FSC, PEFC etc.

The construction industry is a major consumer of natural resources, user of manpower and has a large impact on the sustainability of the UK and the wider world. Recognising the importance of this issue BRE Global has developed BES 6001 Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products and an associated independent third-party certification scheme providing an effective means by which the responsible sourcing characteristics of all construction products and materials can be objectively assessed and compared.

The BES 6001 Standard

The BES 6001 Standard assesses an organisation's performance in three areas:

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

Fundamental issues within these areas require a basic, 'Compulsory' level of performance which must be passed in order to secure the basic 'Pass' level of certification. Additional points can be scored in most areas of the standard demonstrating a performance above the basic and these can help deliver to the organisation one of the three higher levels of certification – 'Good', 'Very Good' and 'Excellent'.

Once certified all materials are listed in the BRE Global on-line service Green Book Live enabling specifiers to compare and select those products and materials with the best responsible sourcing performance.

BREEAM recognises the increasing importance of the issue of responsible sourcing. A section on responsible sourcing of materials is an integral part of the materials element of the methodology and points secured from BES 6001 secure additional credits in BREEAM.

Benefits of Certification

Securing certification to BES 6001 will benefit all organisations within the supply chain.

Manufacturers benefit through:

- Differentiation of their products against competitors
- Securing increased competitiveness and market share
- Demonstrating corporate reputation and leadership
- Benchmarking their manufacturing performance and facilitating continuous improvement through certification

Specifiers and purchasers benefit through

- Securing additional BREEAM credits for their buildings
- Reducing risk down the supply chain
- Demonstrating corporate reputation and leadership

Further information on BES 6001, including an application form, Fee Sheet and a downloadable copy of the full Standard text can be found at www.greenbooklive.com/responsiblesourcing

For further information, contact the BRE Centre for Sustainable Products helpdesk on 01923 664462 or email responsiblesourcing@bre.co.uk



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



BREEAM

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.

The Green Guide to Specification is the mechanism BREEAM uses to measure the environmental impact of specifications for key building elements. The elements assessed and the value of the particular credits varies within each BREEAM scheme.

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. As the Environmental Profiles Methodology is aligned with the European framework standards emerging from the CEN TC350 BRE Global will review the mechanism for achieving credits within BREEAM.

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.

For more information regarding BREEAM please visit www.breeam.org

The Code for Sustainable Homes

The Code for Sustainable Homes became operational in England in April 2007. Also from 1st May 2008, a minimum of Code Level 3 is required for all new housing promoted or supported by the Welsh Assembly Government or their sponsored bodies and from 2nd June 2008, Code Level 3 is required for all new self-contained social housing in Northern Ireland. The Code does not apply in Scotland.

The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) is an environmental assessment method for rating and certifying the performance of new homes based on BRE Global's EcoHomes scheme. It is a Government owned national standard intended to encourage continuous improvement in sustainable home building. It 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.

BRE Global act as advisors on issues related to maintenance and development of the technical contents of the CSH standard and manage implementation of the scheme under contract to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

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

Training and awareness

The BRE Centre for Sustainable Products provides 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.

BRE Centre for Sustainable Products 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

S Plan

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

BRE Global

Watford, Herts
United Kingdom
WD25 9XX

T +44 (0)1923 664462

F +44 (0)1923 664103

E breeam@bre.co.uk

www.breeam.org

BRE Trust

The BRE Trust uses profits made by BRE Group to fund new research and education programmes, that will help it meet its goal of 'building a better world together'.

The BRE Trust is a registered charity in England & Wales:
No. 1092193, and Scotland: No. SC039320.