Sustainability Standard Setting Bodies

Relevant Green Bond Market Information on Sustainability Standards Form¹

Forms filled in by standard setters should be sent back to greenbonds@icmagroup.org, for publication on the Green Bond Principles Resource Centre.

Section 1. Basic Information

Organization name:

Name of sustainability standard:²

Completion date of this form: 26 February 2021

Publication date of the standard: [where appropriate, specify if it is an update and add reference to earlier relevant standard]

Germany

• BREEAM DE / AT In-Use Commercial 2013 (Launching V6 in Spring 2021)
• BREEAM CH In-Use Commercial 2016 (Launching V6 in Spring 2021)
• BREEAM DE / AT / CH In-Use Residential (Launching V6 in Spring 2021)
• BREEAM DE New Construction 2018
• BREEAM AT New Construction 2019

Section 2. Detailed review

Standard setters are encouraged to provide the information below to the extent possible and use the comment section to explain the scope of their review.

1. Green Bond Principles (GBP) project categories relevant to the standard

Overall comment on section (if applicable): 

¹ The Form follows the characterisations of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes as set out in OECD Environment Woking Papers No.62 – A characterisation of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes
² Use separate forms for each standard if multiple standards are set by the same standard setting body and the criteria of those standards differ significantly from one another

Version 1.0, June 2020
GBP Project categories that the standard applies to (for additional information on the GBP see appendix 1):

- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Pollution prevention and control
- Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use
- Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation
- Clean transportation
- Sustainable water and wastewater management
- Climate change adaptation
- Eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes
- Green buildings
- Other (please specify):

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy or category, if other than GBPs:


2. Alignment with relevant international targets, thresholds and guidelines for sustainability

Please explain how alignment with international targets, thresholds and guidelines for sustainability are built into your governance frameworks and standard setting process. A non-exhaustive list of examples includes: ISEAL code compliant, alignment with EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities, Paris Climate Agreement, UN Global Compact, etc.

Please explain (if applicable):

The BREEAM portfolio (incl HQM and CEEQUAL) assessment frameworks are internationally applicable and developed to align to, and support the objectives of relevant strategic and technical initiatives through themes such as Carbon, Resilience, Natural Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Circularity (see our Build Back Better Hub https://www.breeam.com/building-back-better/). This ensures alignment with the sector, at a global scale, whilst promoting a consistent, efficient and impactful approach to driving more sustainable, ESG outcomes in the round. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Strategic:
- UNFCCC Paris Climate Agreement (2016)

Technical:
- ISO 14025 Type III – Environmental Product Declarations
- CEN/TC 350 - Sustainability of construction works’ standards
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

3. Main Characteristics (please choose all options that apply to the standard)

Governance

a. Leadership or ownership *(What type of institution runs the standard?)*

☒ For-profit
☐ Non-profit
☒ Non-governmental
☐ Multistakeholder

b. Standard scheme management

☒ The scheme owner has a sustainability-oriented mission or vision

☒ The scheme owner has defined and makes publicly available its desired long-term sustainability impacts and strategy for achieving those impacts

☒ Stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input on the intended sustainability impacts and possible unintended effects of the standards system

☐ On a regular basis, the scheme owner monitors and evaluates progress towards its sustainability impacts and accurately and publicly communicates the results

☒ The scheme owner applies adaptive management by using the learning from monitoring and evaluation to improve its standard and supporting strategies

☒ The scheme owner carries out internal or external audits of its management system and operations at least annually and incorporates the findings

☒ The scheme owner makes information on the governance structure and income sources or financing structure of the scheme publicly available

☐ The scheme is registered under ISEAL membership

☒ Stakeholders have the possibility to participate in or provide formal input on the governance of the scheme

c. Standard-setting characteristics
Documented procedures for the process under which each standard is developed or revised form the basis of the standard setting process

Documented procedures for the process under which each standard is developed or revised shall be made available to stakeholders, at a minimum through the organisation’s website

A regular review of the standard setting procedures is conducted (at least every 5 years)

A regular review of the standard is conducted (at least every 5 years)

Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are constituted by a balance of key stakeholders

Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are open to all stakeholders

Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are limited to members, but the procedure for becoming a member is transparent and non-discriminatory

Other (Please specify): The standards are open to all stakeholders through public consultation. The governing body’s role is to ensure impartiality within the scheme, and the certification decision process.

Sustainability Claims and Communications

a. Communication Channel (Who is using the standard to communicate, and who is the target of that communication?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication from:</th>
<th>Communication to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ Business (excluding financial institutions)</td>
<td>☒ Business (excluding financial institutions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Government</td>
<td>☒ Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Bank</td>
<td>☒ Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Insurance Company</td>
<td>☒ Insurance Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Development Bank</td>
<td>□ Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Investor</td>
<td>☒ Investor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Asset owner (e.g. Building)</td>
<td>☒ Asset manager (e.g. Building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ NGO</td>
<td>☒ Consumer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Other (please specify): Developers, Tenants, Occupiers/Building Users,</td>
<td>☒ Other (please specify): Developers, Tenants, Occupiers/Building Users,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Means of communication (What is the mode of communication to the target audience?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sealing/logo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declaration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Communication scope (What activities are covered by the communication?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture and food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber forest products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-timber forest products (rubber, cork, bamboo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper, packaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
☐ Cleaning products  ☐ Tourism
☐ Biofuels  ☐ Luxury Products
☐ Electronics  ☒ Sustainable Sites & Locations
☐ Cosmetics  ☐ Water
☒ Building materials  ☐ Indoor Air Quality/Health
☐ Waste  ☐ Other (please specify): Pollution,
☐ Other (please specify): Construction/Building Management,
☒ Ecosystem Services  Resilience, Ecology

Standard Characteristics

a. Monitoring and auditing\(^4\) (Who has the ability to determine whether the standard is met and what degree of independence exists?)

☐ Standard setter  ☐ External certifier
☐ Self-assessment  ☒ Second party verifier
☒ Accredited third party certifier/verifier  ☐ Other (please specify):

b. Adoption of the standard (To what extent are relevant organizations required to apply the standard?)

☒ Voluntary  ☒ Mandatory (please explain): Our UK schemes are often mandated through planning and government policies.
☐ Other (please specify):

C. Sustainability characteristics

☒ Environmental outcomes are clearly and explicitly defined in the standards  ☒ The standard exceeds regulatory requirements
☒ The standard references relevant, existing national and/or international laws and regulations  ☐ Other (please specify):

d. Transparency (To what extent is relevant information publicly available?)

☒ Final versions of the standard available to the public  ☒ Draft version of the standard available to the public
☐ Public disclosure on standard setting process  ☒ Public disclosure on assessments of compliance with the standard

\(^4\) Whom has the ability to determine whether the standard is applied?
Public disclosure of compliance by standard user

Public disclosure on those complying with the standard (organizations and the level/type of compliance achieved)

Final versions of the standard in additional languages are available to the public

Other (please specify):

e. Methods of environmental assessment (How comprehensive is the standard in accounting for environmental impact?)

Life cycle approach (please specify which environmental goals)
- Life Cycle Costing
- Building Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Circular Economy
  - Use of recycled aggregates from construction waste
  - Design for disassembly and adaptability

Operating/process/practice approach (please specify which environmental goals):
- Integrated Design Approach
- Robust Stakeholder Engagement
- Responsible Construction Practices
- Commissioning
- Handover & Aftercare
- Active Travel
- Local Transport Assessment
- Responsible Sourcing of Materials
- Designing for Durability and Resilience
- Construction Product Efficiency
- Construction and Operational Waste Management
- Adaption to Climate Change
- Sustainable Land Use
- Ecological Enhancement

Performance based or impact approach (please specify which environmental goals)
- Indoor Air Quality
- Thermal Comfort
- Acoustic Performance
- Energy Efficiency
- Carbon Reduction
- Sustainable Water and Wastewater Use
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)
- Construction and Operational Waste Reduction
- Pollution Prevention and Control

Other (please specify method and which environmental goals it applies to):

Please explain any requirements to embed mechanisms/tools for future reporting, requirements to report on selected criteria and reporting scope, as well as the environmental goals being assessed:

Through our BREEAM In-Use schemes, assets are required to use our online platform to provide data on all goals, which is then remeasured/recertified every 3 years, or sooner if there are significant changes to the asset.

Our New Construction, Refurbishment and Fit Out, and Communities scheme have different stages of certification (i.e. Design and Post Construction). At Post Construction projects are required to provide evidence on all goals that what has been suggested at Design Stage has been implemented into the building in order to retain the credits.
f. Resolving complaints

☒ The standard-setting organization shall make impartial and documented efforts to resolve procedural complaints related to standard-setting, based on a publicly document complaints resolution mechanism

☒ The standard-setting organization shall disclose, at least to interested parties, decisions taken on procedural complaints

☐ Other (please specify):

g. Standard focus (To what type of processes do the standards apply?)

☐ Product related process and production methods (please specify):

☒ Non product related processes and production methods (please specify): Certification of the process of undertaking the building assessment against ISO17065.

☐ Other (please specify):

h. Standard scope:

☐ International

☐ Regional

☒ National

☐ Jurisdictional

☐ Other (Please specify):

i. Activities beyond certification:

☒ Platform for discussion and collaboration amongst members and certified entities

☒ Platform for discussion and collaboration amongst other standards addressing the same sector/activity/topic

4. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (please choose all options that apply to the standard)

Overall comment on section (please rank the SDGs by level of contribution of the standard and specify the scale of contribution to each of the relevant SDGs):

Significant contribution to SDGs 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15. Some contribution to SDGs 1, 4, 8, 10 and 17.

☒ SDG 1

☒ SDG 2

☒ SDG 3

☒ SDG 4

☐ SDG 5

☒ SDG 6

☒ SDG 7

☒ SDG 8

☒ SDG 9

☒ SDG 10
☒ SDG 11  ☒ SDG 12
☒ SDG 13  ☐ SDG 14
☒ SDG 15  ☐ SDG 16
☒ SDG 17

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