

GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS ARE CHANGING, ARE YOU?

2018 proved to be a busy year in the world of sustainable building with new rating systems gaining momentum and more established Green Building Rating Systems (GBRS) enjoying major updates. Here is what's new.

BREEAM's UK New Construction Scheme went live in 2018 with an emphasis on the life cycle impact of the entire building and indicators such as transport access and ecology issues.

DGNB updated in 2018 with changes including a focus on the circular economy, contributions to UN Sustainable Development Goals, recognition of the Eurofins standard for indoor air quality and integration of most of the European Level(s) framework requirements.

Fitwel created in 2017 describes itself as a "low-cost, high-impact" certification to optimise buildings to support the health of people who use them.

HQE launched a new version in 2018. There were updates to indoor air quality and hydrothermal comfort sections and the addition of life cycle environmental impact indicators in line with national labelling that shows the positive energy contribution of buildings with a low carbon footprint.

LEED is working on v4.1 and launched a beta version to deliver "new methodologies for measuring building performance". The ARC platform allows the performance of LEED certified buildings to be compared.

Level(s) framework is a pilot European Commission initiative designed to 'mainstream' the assessment of building sustainability by examining indicators such as full life cycle of buildings, resource efficiency, acoustics and indoor air quality.

Living Building Challenge (LBC) emphasises the use of healthy construction materials with a positive environmental impact. The new European Living Future Institute announced in 2018 it was pursuing European market alignment for the LBC tool. Knauf Insulation is a founding sponsor.

OsmoZ was launched in France in 2018 and focuses on environmental health such as acoustic health and indoor air quality.

TOTEM is a Building Life Cycle Assessment Tool for Belgium and was launched in 2018 using a new Belgian Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) database.

WELL version 2 was launched in 2018 with a focus on "advancing health and well-being in buildings".

Bulgaria's green-build ambition is epitomised by major developments such as the BREEAM-certified Capital Fort business centre, the highest building in the capital of Sofia at 126 metres with 80,000m² of floor space. The building was voted the Best Commercial High-Rise Architecture at the European Property Awards 2017 and features Knauf Insulation products in the façade, partition walls, suspended ceilings and underground garages.

The architect Angel Zahariev from A&A Architects, the creative force behind the centre, says easily accessible expertise such as that offered by Knauf Insulation is vital to the industry. "Certainly, information and advice from manufacturers of construction products and systems is very useful in the design and certification process. It is also important that this information is easily available so it can be used effectively."



NINE WAYS WE CAN HELP

1. Mineral Wool's point potential

Mineral Wool contributes to eight key GBRS areas: maximum points for energy and climate, thermal comfort, acoustics, air quality, life-cycle costing, life cycle impact, construction waste and responsible sourcing.

2. Our Red List free products

Our products from the US are Red List free. Third-party verified details can be accessed via sustainableminds.com.

3. Life Cycle Assessments matter

DGNB, LEED, BREEAM and Level(s) reward LCAs while new regulation in countries like France will make them mandatory. We have LCAs and Environmental Performance Declarations for the majority of our products.

4. More focus on indoor air

Indoor air quality is a focus of many new GBRS and established schemes such as DGNB. Its 2018 version recognises Eurofins indoor air quality standards. Our Mineral Wool is certified to Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold standard.

5. Acoustic health

Our Mineral Wool and Heraklith Wood Wool offer exceptional acoustic performance demanded by many GBRS. Our Systems Division as well as our Wood Wool range can provide customised solutions.

6. Better water use

Our Urbanscape® Green Roof solution can hold up to 45 litres of water per square metre which helps manage stormwater in heavy rain locations and reduce use in places where irrigated water is precious.

7. Updated information

Sustainableminds.com shows how our solutions provide credits in LEED, Living Building Challenge, WELL among others in North America. While the sustainable building section of Knaufinsulation.com shows how our products provide points in LEED, BREEAM, DGNB and WELL. The sites are constantly updated.

8. Resource use

The circular economy is a vital factor in most of the Green Building Rating Systems. It's important to us too. Our Glass Mineral Wool with ECOSE uses up to 80% recycled glass.

9. Team support

At Knauf Insulation our team of technical specialists can provide expertise for WELL, LBC, DGNB, BREEAM, LEED, HQE and Level(s) among many others.