

Q: How can I access the BECD?

A: You can access the BECD at www.becd.co.uk. For any questions or queries relating to the database, please email becd-support@becd.co.uk. The user guide is at www.becd.co.uk/user-guide, along with video tutorials and FAQs.

Q: Is the BECD free to use?

A: Yes, it is free to use, to submit data to, and to download data from.

Q: How is the BECD different from other carbon calculators and everything else that is out there?

A: The BECD is not a calculator. It is a repository for data to be uploaded and downloaded and we hope it will be adopted as the industry-wide method for sharing our knowledge and experiences.

Q: How and when will the BECD be updated and maintained?

A: The BECD is reliant upon users getting involved and submitting data. The team will release updates when sufficient data has been captured.

Q: Are there any plans for regular expansion or refinement?

A: We have many things on our BECD wish list, but this is all subject to how the industry adopts and supports it going forward.

Q: Can one asset detail be shared / co-authored by the whole design team? Or this is an individual user database?

A: At the moment, registration is for individual users, but we'd like to develop a function to share projects between different users.

Q: Are there any plans to directly link with manufacturers?

A: We allow users to add data and, for the Product database, we would especially encourage manufacturers to get involved and upload their data so that BECD users can access the information they need for their products.

Q: Why was MEP data sparse in the presentation?

A: This is an area that is improving in terms of embodied carbon data, but we still have a way to go in the industry before we have EPDs for every product available to us.

Q: How is the BECD aligned with the RICS Professional Standard on Whole Life Carbon Assessment?

A: The BECD is currently aligned with the first edition of the standard and will be updated in line with the second edition. The second edition takes effect from 1 July 2024. Users will be able to choose to download only projects that are aligned with either one of the editions if they wish.

Q: How can data be downloaded from the BECD? What format is it in?

A: All assessments published in 'full visibility' mode are available to download in a CSV file. The file will contain all the information about the asset, assessment, embodied carbon values, etc. except personal details. You can choose to download all assessments in bulk or select a smaller sample by using filters.

You can perform any type of analysis and research on the export that does not infringe the [BECD user agreement](#).

Q: Can I submit data for projects and products from outside the UK?

A: Yes, although many of the data fields in the Asset database are tailored to the UK context.

Q: What are the plans for infrastructure data to be added?

A: As the BECD is updated to reflect the second edition of the RICS Standard, there will be better provision for infrastructure data.

We're really pleased that Mott MacDonald has agreed to share data with the BECD, starting with its highways projects.

Q: How do you hope / plan to get consistent data when such a variety of calculators are being used? How will the data be validated / verified?

A: Although we will be doing some checks on submitted data when we perform statistical analysis, we can't perform the kind of very detailed analysis that would be needed to validate an assessment. Simply, BECD is not a third-party verifier of whole life carbon assessments.

What we can do is make sure the type of information that is entered by users then allows other users to make a judgement call on whether they want to include that asset in their benchmarking. Users can filter projects out to suit their requirements and, for example, only choose assessments done post-completion, which restricts the data pool to more accurate projects.

Further, we are working on a Data Quality Framework to help users judge the suitability of submitted data. This would rate data against key criteria, for example adherence to standards, level of external review, age of data and what supporting information is available.

Users should exercise the usual checks on data they're using that they would normally when completing an assessment.

Q: What GHG emissions does it take account of? E.g. is it just carbon, those regulated (and in treaties), or all GHGs as per IPCC definitions?

A: All GHG emissions are accounted for, as the reporting is in CO2-equivalent.

Q: How many projects are currently in the BECD?

A: As of the launch, we have a few projects already published in the Asset database. Projects which were entered during the BECD beta testing phase will also be added. Now it's over to the industry to start adding their projects.

The Product database is launching with more than 34,000 entries, predominantly from EPDs.

Q: If we all start to submit data on the current projects, the database will capture most data from 2023 onwards, but do you expect people to submit data from past projects?

A: Yes, we welcome data from past projects too.

Q: For the Asset database, at what stage do you want the data?

A: Assessments can be submitted at any stage they are completed, and multiple assessments can be submitted if they are carried out. In the database, users will see that projects / assets can be broken down into separate assessments, for which they'll be asked to enter the project stage.

Q: How does the BECD interact with other software?

A: We are working with other software providers, starting with some of the bigger ones like OneClickLCA and eTool. We want to make the upload as easy as possible for users.

If you have a large number of data points, please email becd-support@becd.co.uk so we can help you with a bulk upload.

Q: Is there a BECD API?

A: There is no API currently available, though we do plan to have one. There is an ongoing discussion among the steering group as to whether an API should be made freely available or for a charge. Lots of people have put their time into the development of BECD and BCIS has funded it.

There is a question around whether commercial software companies should benefit from all of that hard work without contributing to the BECD's ongoing funding and maintenance.

We will keep [BCIS Carbon Newsletter](#) subscribers up-to-date on developments like this.

Q: What is the difference between the BECD and the ICE (Inventory of Carbon & Energy) database? Will they co-exist?

A: The BECD has data for individual EPDs, which are for *specific* manufacturers' products, but the ICE has data on the typical impact of a *kind* of product.

The BECD Product database will be used to update the ICE Database, sponsored by BCIS. This will provide 10x more data from EPDs to analyse in ICE.

Going forward, there is a use for both and they will support each other.

Q: Future BCIS products

A: We had various questions around new BCIS products currently in development. We'll have more information about these in coming weeks. To stay up to date, as well as receiving wider news about carbon in the built environment, you can sign up to our new [BCIS Carbon Newsletter](#).