

Q: Will the product EPDs be updated at regular intervals? / How often will the EPD data be updated for new products?

A: The EPDs will be updated by the manufacturers responsible for the products. In terms of updates from the BECD team, we'll be monitoring the wider market for new EPDs that are available, but it's really on the industry get behind the project and for everyone to upload the information they have from their EPDs and life cycle assessments.

Q: Is there a recommended online embodied carbon calculator tool?

A: The BCIS team would of course recommend its upcoming [BCIS Cost and Carbon Calculator](#), but in general we would urge that you make sure that any carbon calculators you are using are compliant with the RICS whole life carbon assessment standard.

Q: Can the assessments be linked to the LETI Embodied Carbon Targets for different building typologies?

A: We don't currently have the LETI Embodied Carbon Targets built in to BECD, but that is a future enhancement that we would certainly like to investigate.

Q: Has all the data from recent GLA WLC assessments been implemented into the database?

A: We are in discussions with GLA on finding a slick way of incorporating and uploading those assessments into the BECD, so stay tuned for that. We will include updates like this in our new [Carbon Newsletter](#).

Q: Do EPDs also have a breakdown of kgCO2/kg of product to overcome the challenge of functional units using different measurements?

A: Not always. EPDs are notoriously inconsistent in the information that they provide. One of the purposes of the upcoming [BCIS Cost and Carbon Materials Database](#) is to convert the information into a standard measurement.

Q: Does this account for labour/ contractor cost data? i.e. installation costs?

A: No, BECD is a carbon only data repository. If you want to know the installation costs as well as the impacts on carbon emissions, then you would need to access something like the new [BCIS Cost and Carbon Calculator](#), which is in development.

Q: Do you have good representation of interior materials and finishes? The data looks somewhat skewed towards structural materials.

A: The data is what the data is at the moment. It's everything we've had access to in developing the BECD. Where there are particular areas with less data, we would encourage people working in those areas to reach out to the relevant manufacturers. The success of the BECD will be in everybody's contributions going forward.

Q: Will the product database contain any products that don't have an EPD currently and/or how does the database handle environmental benefits that fall outside of the scope of EPD modules?

A: The BECD has been designed to take all levels of information, from an estimated value to life cycle assessment records that aren't verified, or even unverified EPDs. We're looking to put a data quality indicator in there and a filter, so you can search just for EPDs or other particular information. The database doesn't handle environmental benefits outside of A1 to A3 but it links to the record that may contain that information if the user wants to understand it better.

Q: What should we do if the EPD is no longer valid?

A: Either contact the manufacturer to see if they've got an updated EPD and, if they have, make sure it's uploaded into the BECD, or, if the EPD for that product isn't available anymore and hasn't been updated, you may have to use an EPD from a similar product. The RICS whole life carbon assessment standard just requires you to state what the EPD is based on.

Q: The UK government has signed up to IDDI and one of their aims is to have open access site and product specific EPDs to be available for green public procurement for the construction and infrastructure sectors for steel, cement and concrete. Are you aligned with IDDI?

A: Yes, we have joined a couple of groups relating to IDDI and there should be some alignment between the BECD and what IDDI are trying to achieve.

Q: Considering product level LCA is already regulated (EPD), what is the main objective of the BECD product database?

A: BECD contains more information than just a regulated EPD, because unfortunately we don't have EPDs for every single material out there and people need to do assessments based on the best information that's available to them. BECD has been designed to capture, not just EPDs but other forms of life cycle assessments as well.

Q: Will the [BCIS Cost and Carbon Materials Database](#) include broader sustainability characteristics in addition to carbon?

A: The initial intention is the [BCIS Cost and Carbon Materials Database](#) will just contain carbon information, but we will be delighted to evolve this product to suit the needs of the industry. However, users of the database will be able to follow links to the source information that in some cases will contain broader sustainability statistics.

Q: EC3 is an American database with EPDs for products for a different market and to different specs... Wouldn't these be misleading?!!

A: BECD users can search and filter via country to get information applicable to what they're after. All information is useful!

Q: I did not see any EPDs in the graph for timber. For information, Timber Development UK are collecting links to EPDs for timber products.

A: That's fantastic to hear and a shout out to them to please make sure this is made available in BECD.

Q: Did you consider Centre for Window and Cladding Technology (CWCT) Guidelines for Facade related embodied carbon equations?

A: We'd be delighted if the CWCT reached out to us to discuss what data they might be able to share with the industry.

Q: Do you have any insights on if the tool will be adopted consistently across the industry? What are your thoughts on the potential support SMEs will need to be able to use this consistently?

A: Our intention is that BECD will be adopted consistently across the industry. As mentioned in the launch webinar, BCIS is currently developing some tools and calculators that will be able to support SMEs, in addition to having the BECD resource.

Q: What figure is given for timber EPDs? Is it A1-A3 including or excluding sequestered biogenic carbon?

A: Timber and carbon sequestration is covered in the RICS whole life carbon assessment standard and I would also encourage you to have a look at the timber EPDs already uploaded.

Q: Can the data be exploited for commercial purposes? Some EPD providers like eco-platform forbid commercial exploitation.

A: Our [User Agreement](#) forbids commercial exploitation.

Q: Can TM65 data be uploaded?

A: Yes it can be and we would be delighted if CIBSE wants to upload that data.

Q: Would this platform support the UKGBC Frameworks for Whole Life carbon assessments?

A: Yes it can.

Q: How can we get the carbon footprint for process, rather than product? which is needed to calculate the whole life cycle assessment?

A: The upcoming [BCIS Cost and Carbon Calculator](#) will include the construction process as well as the product emissions factor.

Q: How will the data quality framework align with prEN 15941?

A: This is still being scoped out at the moment, so please check back in with BECD in the future. We'll include BECD updates in the new [BCIS Carbon Newsletter](#).

Q: Are you going to have an internal team that will be adding products in the database as other databases? If yes how often?

A: It's on the industry now to keep adding to BECD. We have a small team responsible for checking information and uploading too, but the onus is on users to upload their own data and use it.

Q: Would there be any potential to use this tool during the concept design phase to compare the carbon impact of various design approaches to a design brief?

A: Theoretically, once the asset database has more data in it, yes.

Q: Is there a way to compare multiple products' embodied carbon within the BECD database?

A: This isn't how BECD is set up. However, the new [BCIS Cost and Carbon Materials Database](#) will give the ability to select multiple products and view and compare them in terms of cost and carbon.

Q: In the Product database, is there information about uncertainty of emission factors?

A: No, the data quality indicator will be looking at some things, but not specifically uncertainty.

Q: When will the infrastructure data (WG3?) be available? / What is the plan for WP3 - infrastructure, what will this database have and when will it be available?

A: The BECD does contain infrastructure data, including, for example projects that Mott MacDonald has shared. Infrastructure data will become more readily available after we have updated BECD to reflect the second edition of the RICS whole life carbon assessment standard, which has a data structure for infrastructure.