

Q: Will the BCIS lifecycle calculator replace other software packages and help with calculations?

A: The intention is the new [BCIS Cost and Carbon Calculator](#) will certainly help users with calculations that comply with the standards and official data, other software providers may offer broader functionality.

Q: Are the ECO Portal and EC3 EU-based products mainly? How do you account for the Transport and possible UK manufacturing of these materials/ products?

A: All EPDs identify the source and manufacturing location. If there's a material that's been manufactured in the US only, then it will have the US as the base location. If it's been manufactured in the UK and the US, it should have two different EPDs.

Q: Is there going to be a future benchmarking tool as part of BECD?

A: Potentially. Our initial focus is on launching what we have and getting the industry to adopt it. If there's a need for benchmarking, then that might be something that we can look to do within BECD.

Q: Why has ECO Portal been used as the only other source of EPDs alongside EC3? Is it because it is the largest source of EPDs? There are many websites that host EPDs.

A: ECO Portal and EC3 were used to give us as high a volume of data as possible to start the BECD Product database off with. It's now up to the industry to get behind it and make sure that that we've got data loading into it going forwards.

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

A: No, there's not, but there will be in the new [BCIS Cost and Carbon Materials Database](#).

Q: How are you going to incentivise submission of data? Will you for instance be publishing a leaderboard of submissions?

A: We hope that professional bodies will be pushing their members to upload data. Recognition for people who are uploading data is a great suggestion.

Q: Is there an opportunity / expectation for larger companies to use this as their primary Project Carbon Database (rather than the various inconsistent internal tools currently used across industry), and if so, have any provisions been made for "Business-level" accounts managing numerous users across a single business?

A: The intention is absolutely that larger companies will use BECD in this way. Currently there's no provision for business-level accounts, but we are hoping to add this function. We'll include updates about BECD in the new [BCIS Carbon Newsletter](#).

Q: What license is the data made available under?

A: Please see our [User Agreement](#).

Q: Will any of your new software help with calculations?

A: Yes, the [BCIS Cost and Carbon Calculator](#), which is in development, is designed to take the pain and the legwork out of this complex standard and link it to cost measurement activities that are already undertaken in the construction industry.

Q: Any advice on the best training / online guidance available to support us compiling useful data to feed into your database?

A: We've released video tutorials as part of our [User Guide](#) to help people to use BECD. If you're having any trouble, or if you have a large amount of data to submit, please reach out to the team at becd-support@becd.co.uk and we will work with you to find the most efficient way of getting it in.

Q: Does the tool provide benchmarks for water use and electricity per project size etc?

A: No, but given time we hope that the sample of data will allow us to do things like that in the Asset database.

Q: Will the whole building information help us develop targets for WLC / EC in the future?

A: Yes, that is the intention of BECD that the more data we have in here, the more that it can help inform policy makers and others too.

Q: For the ICE V3.1 Database will you be including carbon data on stainless steel from European manufacturers/suppliers. Previous version only based on Global supply / Chinese supplier.

A: Please refer to Circular Ecology for ICE update plans.

Q: Is the BCIS Life Cycle Calculator going to be free?

A: No, sadly not. We can't develop all of our tools for free.

Q: I would recommend you bring this to the EU JRC - the EU Level(s) framework needs a framework like this!

A: We'd be delighted to have any discussions if anyone can recommend a contact point.

Q: Has the geographical scope of EPDs been taken into account when deciding whether or not to include them in the database?

A: Yes, the main focus has been around the UK and Europe, but the database has the ability to capture data from any location. And the user has the ability to filter those when they're searching for information.

Q: Will this information be used to generate 'product averages' to use in early stage modelling?

A: We would hope that BECD will eventually contain enough information in the Product database to be able to do this.

Q: Why only A1-A3 in the LCA? How is the product database accounting for the differences in biogenic carbon between 15804+A1 vs +A2?

Q: What's the thinking behind only using life cycle stages A1-A3 and not whole life data? Don't overlook A4 and A5, it is important to have an appropriate data scope for the benefit of subcontractors.

Q: Do you have a view on how to incorporate modules A4 and A5? Will these be benchmarked anywhere within the database(s)?

Q: Is the database limited to the production stages A1-A3 Module only? How can I get the carbon coefficients for other Modules?

A: We believe that there's so many assumptions that are made in an EPD past the A1 to A3 stage, in terms of how long things last and what you're going to do with it, that there becomes less and less value in the reporting. What we've agreed to do on the BECD is provide the number for A1 to A3 and then to provide a link to the LCA record.

We are not overlooking A4 and A5 but they vary considerably based on where the product is being sourced from, where the site is, and what construction methods are being used. So we don't want to include A4 and A5 in the Product database because the assumption is, in essence, already incorrect. The Asset database will cover A4 to A5 and it will be possible to model A4 and A5 through the new BCIS products that are being developed at the moment.

Q: Can information from an EPD be updated when situations change - prior to an updated EPD being made?

A: Yes, any EPD owners can reach out to BECD for any corrections that they want to make during the life of an EPD.

Q: Hi! when do you expect to publish asset or product benchmarks to guide LCAs?

A: This will be based on the volume of data and levels of interaction with BECD.

Q: The operational emissions data is presumably based on design data. Given the performance gap, is there an intention to develop a database to include actual performance data to help in turn refine the design models?

A: You can add a number of assessments for a particular building, so very early-stage assessment and as the building is built. The intention is that we would have an in-use, operational assessment space within BECD in the future too.

Q: Can you export project reports from One-Click LCA and eTool?

A: We are working with commercial software vendors to find an easy way of uploading data from their products into BECD.

Q: Any advice on best training / guidance for reading / comparing EPDs to inform specification choices? (& that can be made easy to read for clients?)

A: We're not currently aware of any, but if it's needed by the industry then BECD and BCIS would be happy to develop something to support.

Q: How do you envisage the data being integrated with BIM/architectural and engineering design tools?

A: It's data that can be integrated. We've not yet had any conversations with BIM architectural and engineering design tool developers but would be delighted to.

Q: Is there a risk that this will effectively become yet another dataset that is added to the list? Merging EN and non-EN compliant data is risky and may reduce confidence in embodied carbon results at product level, how is this risk being mitigated?

A: BECD is a repository for all of the information and it's really up to users to filter within that to the information they want to gain access to.

Q: Do we think we can make more of the collaboration obligations within PAS2080 - making sharing projects in the BECD part of a company's PAS2080 process?

A: We would love that to happen, absolutely.

Q: Are the working conditions in the countries where the raw materials are extracted taken into account in the calculations? We need to make sure that we are not shortening the lives of people in other countries at our expense. Can you ensure that your data is the most human rights friendly data?

A: BECD is simply a data repository. A qualified EPD assessor would be best-placed to offer guidance with this.