

Why do we need an EPD?

*EPD, is a shortening for **Environmental product Declaration**. EPD is in fact a document that provides information on the life-cycle environmental impact of the product. EPD datasheets are made in accordance with international ISO standards (ISO 14025/ EN 15804).*

All EPD are certified by a third party. EPD are value for 5 years.

EPD datasheets contains information on: the company (producer), technical description, content use of resources and environmental impact of the product.

In many EPD there are also available additional information such as, instruction for the proper use of the product, maintenance and recycling.

The Nordic Guide for Sustainable Material:

An EPD provides verified assessment of the environmental impact of several indicators through the life cycle stage. In the *Nordic Guide for Sustainable Material*, four main indicators are used to state the environmental impacts of the product.

- Global warming potential-greenhouse gases ·
- Material resources ·
- Hazardous substances ·
- Emissions to indoor climate

Most EPD provides information on many other indicators. These four are considered the most important ones.

There are three optional level of performance:

- Best Nordic Practice (given level based on standardized and verified information)
- High ambitions (verified information)
- Good ambitions. (self-declaration)

Information in the *Nordic Guide for Sustainable Material* represents the emphasis of the Nordic Green Building Councils in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

More information on the marked in each country are accessible in the main report.

EPD is in fact similar to nutrition labels for food, but instead of nutritional facts there are values for the environmental impacts of the product.

EPD “Nutrition” Label

Your Building Product

Amount per Unit	
LCA IMACT MEASURES	TOTAL
Primary Energy (MJ)	12.4
Global Warming Potential (kg CO ² eq)	0.96
Ozone Depletion (kg CFC- 11 eq)	1.80E-08
Acidification Potential (mol H ⁺ eq)	0.93
Eutrophication Potential (kg N ⁺ eq)	6.43E-04
Photo-Oxidant Creation Potential (kg O3 eq)	0.121

Your Product's Ingredients: Listed Here

Here are several reasons for why **Building owners** should request for an EPD:

- To reduce the environmental impact of your building.
- To be able to evaluate and compare the environmental impact of each building product used in the building.
- To have reliable information of the building product and its environmental properties.
- To be able to meet the requirements of international certification systems
- To fulfill Environmental EU laws and regulations now compulsory in many countries.
- To reduce workload in relation to sustainable procurement
- To simplify the bidding phase and make it more transparent
- To increase the quality of life of the residents/ users of the building
- To increase and sustain the resale value of your building.

Where can Building owners access EPD of a product?

All EPD documents are registered in databases. Some producers of building material do also provide this information on their website where you can seek for information on the web of different products before you select one.

The most common databases used in the Nordic market are listed in the *Nordic Guide for Sustainable Material*.

Here are several reasons for **Producers** of building material to publish an EPD for their product:

- To be able to measure the environmental impact of your product
- Increased demand of transparency in your business
- International certification systems ask for proofs of the environmental impacts of products
- EPD are becoming compulsory by law in many EU countries
- EPD is a standardized third party verification
- EPD is neutral and provides all relevant information focusing on the product environmental performance.
- Information presented in an EPD are liable and based on international and European standards
- Can build a baseline for the performance of your product
- Useful tool for managers to measure quality of the production product.

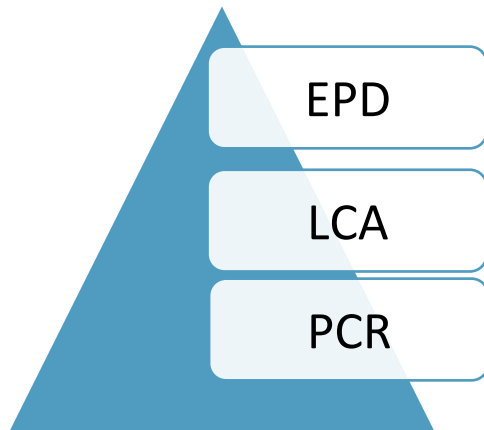
If I like to have and publish EPD for my product, where do I start?

- Find the Product Category Rule (PCR) for your product
- Make a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of your product, which the EPD will be based upon. (many consulting companies provide this service)
- Value what information is useful for buyers of your product

- Focus on the four indicators put forth in the Nordic Guide for Sustainable Material (2016)
- Keep it transparent and simple, with only the necessary information to make it easy to compare.

Established EPD

- Register the EPD in a database.
- Make the EPD visible and ask providers of it to focus on informing their customers in the environmental impact of your product in their marketing material.
- Prepare marketing material for your product and publish it.
- Have more detailed information accessible on your website.



Local information:

Here should be information on the status of EPD in your country or market area. Perhaps short summary from the survey?

It is also possible to mention where EPD are required and where it is best to look for information...