

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)

Develop an accurate insight of your product's complete lifecycle environmental impact

What is an EPD?

An Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) is an industry-approved standardised document that reports a product's environmental impact across its full lifecycle. Every EPD certificate provides the product's carbon footprint, known as the 'Global Warming Potential' (GWP), which includes environmental impacts on carbon, air, soil and water bodies.

The environmental data is created via a holistic lifecycle assessment (LCA) which is then verified by a third-party expert. Construction product EPDs follow EN 15804* (the European Standard for the generation of EPD for construction products), ISO 14025 and other related international standards. An EPD program operator, of which there are several, then publishes the EPD certificate.

Why are EPDs needed?

- ★ To provide transparency about product impacts to buyers/suppliers who want low-carbon products
- ★ Independent verification of manufacturer's data
- ★ Improve product manufacture and/or process efficiency
- ★ Help meet green building certifications including BREEAM and LEED

Benefits

- ✓ Deliver a complete picture of carbon consumption to help meet sustainability and/or ESG targets
- ✓ Build a positive image for investors and customers
- ✓ Although internationally recognised EPDs are yet to be universally adopted, delivering a competitive advantage for those who do

“Trident’s assistance was invaluable as we developed our first EPD. They helped us navigate the unfamiliar and develop a complete picture of our environmental impact. Our appointed contact Chris Wilson also assisted us in the use of the EPD when issued, providing advice and guidance on how to provide valuable comparisons with other products on the market by using industry recognised partners.”



How we can help



Step one

An initial consultation will determine which EPD program operator to engage and the full scope of data required



Step two

Accumulate the environmental data for each component of the product



Step three

Analyse production data during the life cycle stages; manufacturing, construction, product use, end of life and benefits beyond the system boundary



Step four

Liase directly with the EPD program operator to independently verify the full life cycle of the product



Step five

Finalise EPD Report

Customer case study: Specwall

The Challenge

- Specwall’s Advanced Walling Systems required independent verification of the full environmental impact of their products, across the full lifecycle and including Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Compiling complete data for all materials used by the walling systems

The Solution

- We created an EPD based on inventory data from Specwall, analysing the embodied carbon across the life cycle stages; manufacturing, construction, product use, end of life and benefits beyond the system boundary
- Trident engaged Building Research Establishment (BRE) as the EPD program operator, ensuring the data created was verified and independent to supply complete transparency for Specwall customers

The Benefits

- Complete clarity over how much environmental impact a product has across the full lifecycle
- Based on EN 15804, an EPD offered a complete standardised verification which translated internationally
- Although internationally recognized, EPDs are yet to be universally adopted – giving Specwall a competitive advantage