Level(s)
European framework for sustainable buildings

#BuildCircular

What is Level(s)?

Level(s) is an assessment and reporting framework that provides a common language for sustainability performance of buildings. Level(s) promotes lifecycle thinking for buildings and provides a robust approach to measuring and supporting improvement from design to end of life, for both residential buildings and offices.

Level(s) uses core sustainability indicators, tested with and by the building sector, to measure carbon, materials, water, health and comfort, climate change impacts, taking into account lifecycle costs and value assessments.

Level(s) is open source and freely available to all.

Level(s) in the EU policy context

Level(s) is a common framework for sustainable buildings across Europe. As we respond to the Paris Agreement's demand that the building and construction sector decarbonise by 2050, Level(s) supports the essential assessment over the full lifecycle through design, construction, use, and end of life.

Building upon the objectives of both the EU Green Deal and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, Level(s) supports the efforts of the building sector in improving energy and material efficiency, thereby reducing overall carbon emissions.

Get involved!

For further information about Level(s) and ways to get involved in this circular framework for the building sector, please contact **ENV-LEVELS-TESTING@ec.europa.eu** and visit **www.ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/buildings.htm**

Are you in one of the following groups?

Planning
Public authorities, policy-makers and procurers at national, regional, and local level

Design
Architects, designers, engineers, and quantity surveyors

Financing
Clients and investors, including property owners, and developers

Execution
Construction companies and contractors, asset managers, facilities managers, and building occupants

Then Level(s) is for you!

What areas does Level(s) cover?

Level(s) is a framework designed for the building sector. It is divided into three areas, each with their own subject matter and desired outcomes:
- Resource use and environmental performance during a building's lifecycle
- Health and comfort
- Cost, value, and risk

What are the benefits of using Level(s)?

With a limited number of indicators, Level(s) helps you by:
- Providing a **simple entry point to circularity** and lifecycle thinking;
- Identifying hotspots and **future-proofing buildings** by making them more sustainable and carbon efficient.
- Supporting **initial discussions between contractors and clients** regarding what to focus on to **make the project more sustainable**, and perhaps taking it further to detailed design and construction.
- **Greening buildings/portfolios** and discussing between designers and clients how to best align with European or other policy;
- **Demonstrating how policy initiatives can align with a European framework** that has been developed, tried, and tested by a large number of building professionals across the EU.
- Providing flexibility to the users during implementation, adapting it to their needs, pace, and understanding of the framework.
- Being a **valuable framework for all those committed to improving environmental performance** and resource use.

What does the building sector say about Level(s)?

"Level(s) supports our strategy to go beyond its focus on product level impacts towards the life cycle performance of our products in buildings."

Stora Enso: Finland

"To be able to benchmark your building stock and the definition of processes, products, equipment and systems in existing buildings: this is the future, and this is what Level(s) can provide."

Housing Agency of Catalonia: Spain

"Level(s) gives visibility to the full sustainability performance of a project across its whole lifecycle – our industry needs to move this way."

Bouygues Construction: France

"Level(s) is about creating common assessment methods and reporting systems. We see that Level(s) could support green public procurement."

Knauf Insulation: Slovenia

Based on a building's full lifeclyce, the building sector is responsible for:

1/2 of all extracted materials

1/2 of the total energy consumption

1/3 of waste generation

1/3 of water consumption

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