

Building rating tools - Memorandum of Understanding signing

Tuesday 3rd March 2009, 4.30-4.45pm

The Atkins Theatre, EcoBuild'09, Earls Court

Common Language for Carbon in Sight: Leading Rating Tool Providers to Sign MOU

A landmark Memorandum of Understanding between BREEAM, LEED and Green Star and the UK Green Building Council will be signed on Tuesday at EcoBuild'09 in Earls Court, London.

Green Star is developed and administered by the Green Building Council Australia, and the LEED Green Building Rating System is developed and managed by the U.S. Green Building Council, while BREEAM is owned by research and education charity the BRE Trust and operated by BRE Global, based in the UK.

Rating tools are a key component in the market for green building around the world, but there has been a growing demand for consistency and comparability between the tools, particularly with regards to the way they account for carbon emissions.

The key objective of the MOU, as stated in the document, is:

To map and develop common metrics to measure emissions of CO2 equivalents from new homes and buildings

A working group formed of representatives from each of the rating tools will develop the metrics, and seek to align the tools and provide consistency in measurement and reporting.

Paul King, Chief Executive of the UK Green Building Council said:

"The way in which we construct and operate buildings accounts for almost half of all CO2 emissions contributing to climate change globally. Rating tools like BREEAM, LEED and Green Star have a proven track record in driving significant improvements in performance, and I'm delighted they are now coming together to help create an international language that will enable us to talk with one voice about the vital role green buildings can play in creating a low-carbon future."

Romilly Madew, Chief Executive of the Green Building Council of Australia

"Climate change is a global problem, so it is vital we find a global solution. In Australia, residential and commercial buildings contribute 23 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions. This MoU demonstrates Australia's commitment to ensuring that buildings play their part in any approach to address climate change."

Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chairman of the US Green Building Council said:

"The MOU sets the stage for true progress by focusing on performance that is measurable and verifiable. As we work to alleviate the role buildings play in climate change - nearly 39 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States - it's vital that we are able to measure carbon emissions in a consistent, reliable way."

Carol Atkinson, Chief Executive of BRE Global, BRE Global Ltd said:



Press Call

"This is a terrific opportunity for the major international system providers to move towards common carbon metrics."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Paul King chairs the World Green Building Council International Policy Task Force, which is looking at ways market mechanisms, such as rating tools, can complement policy interventions to drive carbon reductions from buildings around the world in run up to the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen in December.

The MOU signing will take place directly after the UK-GBC conference session "Green Building on the World Stage" which starts at 3.30pm on 3rd March. Rick Fedrizzi, USGBC President, CEO, and Founding Chairman, will be speaking at this event.

Photos of the MOU signing will be available from 4th March.

Contact John Alker, UK-GBC

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