

DBGC releases BREEAM NL v1.0

The Netherlands put themselves on the international map releasing BREEAM NL for New Buildings – First BREEAM-NL sustainability label for new buildings launched in The Netherlands.

Released by the [Dutch Green Building Council](#)

New BREEAM-NL is a fact

BREEAM-NL is the first – for the Dutch building market – sustainability label for new construction that will count at the international environmental stage. Today, the board of the Dutch Green Building Council (DGBC) voted positively on the launch of the assessment, for which the Dutch building industry have been waiting some time now. BREEAM will bring sustainable solutions and buildings visible for the public according to the DGBC. “Buildings with the label are from now on guaranteed with a higher return on investment in comparison to non-sustainable buildings,” said Board Chairman Jaap Gillis DGBC (Redevco). “The new BREEAM-NL label is a feature for new buildings that exceed the current Dutch national regulations in the field of sustainability and its borders. Public and private parties that do more than is legally required, will be highlighted using BREEAM-NL in comparison to respective parties which merely apply generally accepted rules.”

Begin certifying

The DGBC still cherishes the hope of issuing the first certificate at the next participants meeting, October 15, 2009. Organizations cooperating in one of the pilot projects running from March to June will be given priority achieving a certificate.

Improve constantly

The rating system now launched is Version 1.0. BREEAM-NL New Buildings will continuously improve. Gillis: “The BREEAM requirements should anyway remain connected to the Building Act, which contains more stringent requirements. It is the intension of BREEAM-NL to reward buildings beyond the durability requirements of public regulation.” Experiences with Version 1.0 are used for version 2.0, expected to appear in the course of 2010. The DGBC invites participants and affiliated Experts and Assessors also to react: “We are open to all positive and negative reactions.”

Helpdesk

Because those who will be involved in the assessments (called Experts and Assessors) will perform their duties for the first time, DGBC promises to do everything to assist them best. There is a helpdesk set up, accessible via the DGBC website (<http://www.dgbc.nl>).

Keep on preserving

The DGBC is a non-profit organization with the ultimate goal of permanent and progressive preservation of the Dutch built environment. “The BREEAM-NL label is a new construction to achieve this goal. It is not the rationale of the organization,” Gillis explains.

More labels

Besides this DGBC is also preparing a label for existing buildings: BREEAM-NL Existing Building, and one to assess (re) development areas: BREEAM-NL Communities.

Furthermore, DGBC promotes sustainability in education at schools, for which they work closely with various universities and colleges. And behind the scenes there is a lot of attention for the harmonization with the older sustainability rating systems with BREEAM-NL Buildings.

DGBC

The Dutch Green Building Council (DGBC) was founded two years ago in The Netherlands to get started with the theme of Sustainability in the building industry. The initiative for this came from the business itself. The industry felt a strong need for resources to preserve the Dutch built environment and to promote the concept of Sustainability quantification and to assess buildings unequivocally in a manner that is accepted internationally. The original five "Founding Partners" have now been joined by more than 180 other "Participants". Thanks to their financial contributions the DGBC can fulfill its task. This means that the organization – Although most business and commercial are accompanying way – is not a commercial company. This will ensure DGBC's high degree of independence. The DGBC is a member of the World Green Building Council and is in close contact with other "green building councils" in Europe and around the world. While still being a young organization itself, DGBC has already helped several of these councils to proceed in a solid way.

BREEAM-NL

BREEAM stands for Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method and was originally developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), a British research organization. BRE has more than 100,000 buildings certified and operates in 15 countries. The addition 'NL' makes clear that this is about the Dutch version. The DGBC translated the original English version into Dutch and then changed it to suite the Dutch situation, laws and regulations. In March 2009 DGBC launched the beta version of BREEAM-NL New Buildings. This version was designed to be used for testing. Besides the thirteen official pilots many other organizations and individuals have downloaded and tried the beta versions. Their findings, comments and questions contributed greatly to the completion of BREEAM-NL 2010, version 1.0. The system uses qualitative weighting. The total score of the examined building receives a valuation as Pass, Good, Very Good, Excellent or Outstanding. BREEAM-NL New 2010 Version 1.0 is useful for individual offices, schools, shops, industrial buildings and major renovation projects.