
The below answer sheet is for your own self-assessment.
Please keep your completed questionnaires and answers on file for your record.
These do not need to be sent to CPD Live. CPD-Live will send you certificate.

SUSTAINABLE FLOORING CHOICES - SPECIFICATION IN A TIME OF CRISIS



1) Globally, the built environment is a major contributor of greenhouse emissions. Could you quantify that? What percentage of emissions is the sector responsible for?

The built environment accounts for over a third of total final energy consumption and represents approximately 40% of carbon emissions.

2) When choosing flooring, what are some of the factors that we should consider when choosing products that are sustainable?

Answers include any two of the following:

Whether the materials used are renewable, abundantly available, and include recycled content

Responsible sourcing and whether they are certified - PHD, C2C, PVC Best Practice, etc.

Responsible design and manufacturing – whether products are produced using energy efficient measures, including closed loop water systems, and designed for recycling

Installation, maintenance, lifecycle – lifecycle costs, energy consumption, commercial warranty and product longevity

3) Carbon offsets can be employed to help achieve net zero emissions in some cases. Is carbon offsetting the best way to achieve a lower carbon footprint?

Where there is no alternative to enable reducing emissions during manufacture or construction, carbon offsetting is suitable. However, the best way to offset carbon is using 'Nature Based Solutions' to restore biodiversity as well as climate, as per the GBCA's Building with Nature 2.0 policy.

4) Over the years we have seen a shift towards Material Transparency, what are some tools available to provide a clear view of the environmental and health profiles of the materials used in production?

- MHS Assessments

- Product Health Declarations (PHDs)

- Environmental Products Declarations (EPDs)

5) Can you explain to us what an EPD is and some of the things that are included in an EPD?

Third party Summary Life Cycle Assessment documents used to communicate the environmental performances of a product or a system providing a set of environmental indicators based on standardised set of criteria set out in EN 15804 +A2.

6) Could you explain why such products can rightly be considered more sustainable than other products?

- They accurately measure cradle-to-grave carbon footprint

- They are third party accredited.

- D module on EPD is key – it's verification that a manufacturer has a recycling program that's actually taking place for that product