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Copper Confirmation

The recently launched BRE 'Green Guide to Specification' now provides independent endorsement of the low environmental impact of both copper roofing and cladding.

The *Green Guide* rates a wide range of complete building elements from 'A+' for best environmental performance to 'E' for the worst, using Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) techniques. Various different copper-finished build-ups are considered in the *Green Guide*, including materials for structure, insulation, moisture control and finishes. All the copper-finished roofs and most copper wall cladding specifications considered achieved A+ or A summary ratings. Even the few specifications with lower ratings could easily be improved by replacing particular components, without affecting the copper cladding itself.

Green Guide ratings form an important part of assessment tools such as BREEAM and the *Code for Sustainable Homes*. For example, as part of the *Code for Sustainable Homes* credits for use of materials, related to BRE *Green Guide* ratings, range from 3 for A+ to 0.25 for D and none for E ratings, applied to key elements such as external walls and roofs.

Recognising that LCA is an important scientific tool for assessing the environmental impacts of materials some years ago, the European Copper Institute set up a 'European Life Cycle Competence Centre' to study this for the metal. The information has been prepared in cooperation with recognised life cycle practitioners, using international methodologies (ISO standards), leading software and proprietary production data collected from across the copper industry. After 3-years work, the most accurate copper LCA data is now available from this most authoritative of sources via a dedicated website www.copper-life-cycle.org.

Further information on Copper in Architecture can be found at: www.cda.org.uk/arch and projects from around Europe are showcased at: www.copperconcept.org.

Ends



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EDITORS

The European Copper in Architecture Campaign would be pleased to provide information for journalists or submit in-depth articles on environmental issues, the latest developments in copper architectural finishes or other topics. Please contact Chris Hodson.

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