



The Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC) is a global initiative running a responsible sourcing certification system for concrete, cement & aggregate. The CSC is an independent organization, initiated by the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI), together with the aggregate, concrete and cement industries.

## The CSC certification system

The CSC system provides insight about to which level is a company operating in an environmentally, socially and economically responsible way. The CSC certification covers raw materials, their source or provenance; the concrete manufacturing process and a range of social and environmental matters.

The CSC certification system is:

- An independent certification system of responsibly sourced concrete and its supply chain
- A system that is and will be rewarded by clients, governments and all concerned people
- An online management system that is easy-to-use with quick scans and reporting

The CSC supports concrete, aggregate and cement producers by offering the certification system as a management tool that rewards their efforts in a credible, independent and qualitative way. The CSC certification system helps manufactures to improve their products' performance. CSC helps governments with their green public procurement of concrete and building- and infrastructure rating systems with responsible sourcing of building materials.

## Setting the standard

Three major assets of the CSC certification system are to be emphasized:

<b>Independent</b>	CSC is an independent certification system operator. The certificates are issued and audited by independent third party certification bodies.
<b>Credible</b>	The CSC certification system is tested worldwide by large and small producers. Workshops are held with different associations. An external stakeholder process has been led by IUCN together with ILO, UNEP, WWF, Birdlife, Friends of Nature and several other civil society organizations*.
<b>Professional</b>	The CSC is governed by three bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Executive Committee with representatives from industry, supply chain, civil society and third parties.</li><li>▪ The Technical Committee with representatives from the industry, the construction sector and academic.</li><li>▪ The Communication Committee and regional committee.</li></ul>

\* IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature, ILO International Labour Organisation, UNEP United Nations Environment Programme, WWF World Wide Fund for Nature



## Business benefits

The CSC certification system provides credible results that are already audited and verified by external experts. Concrete producers could gain substantial benefits as it:

- Strengthens brand and reputation in the market; create competitive advantages;
- Allows them to contribute to sustainable and certified construction projects;
- Helps to improve continuously by providing insights into the whole supply chain's sustainable performance;
- Allows to benchmark within the industry;
- Contributes to the sustainability goals of their clients;
- Promotes confidence amongst local communities.

## Concrete

Concrete is the most widely used manmade material on the planet. These figures are well known but still impress everyone.

The construction industry employs approximately **7% of the global work force** and it is predicted to account for approximately **13% of global GDP** by 2020<sup>1</sup>

Global Construction 2030 forecasts that the volume of construction output will grow by 85% to **\$15.5 trillion worldwide** by 2030, with three countries, China, US and India, leading the way and accounting for 57% of all global growth<sup>2</sup>

**70%** of the world's population lives in concrete structures

The average person consumes **9 kg** of concrete per day

Concrete can be **100%** recycled into concrete or other applications

<sup>1</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Roel Nieuwenkamp, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, 22 August 2016

<sup>2</sup> Global Construction Perspectives and Oxford Economics, UK, 10 November 2015

## Trends

- Wider societal expectations in regard to the ethical, environmental and social performance of the supply chain are increasing. Within the construction industry, accountability, transparency and legitimacy of its operations have become common practice.
- There is an increasing market interest in green procurement policies. Demand for systems certifying materials that are responsibly sourced such as LEED, BREEAM, DGNB, HQE is growing.
- Construction industry clients, including those involved in government funded projects, increasingly seek to prove their products have been responsibly sourced.
- Contractors, architects and engineering in turn are asking their supply chains to probe questions about this crucial element of sustainability; and the onus is on manufacturers, to prove that their products have been responsibly produced and their constituent materials responsibly sourced.

This all leads to higher expectations with regard to the ethical, environmental and social performance of the supply chain of large companies.



## Testimonial of participants

The CSC system helps to improve my odds of winning projects as it **helps my customers to deliver LEED/BREEAM, DGNB points**

The web-based system is **easy to execute** and I can easily **share provided documents from one plant to gain certification with other**

The first step (QuickScan) is free! It gives **immediate feedback** on my results which can be used to **benchmark my performance** with others

This is a management system that provides insights and teaches you through the process by **giving guidance in areas to work on in order to improve the rating**

## For more information

Stefan van Uffelen, Coordinator of the Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC)

[info@concretesustainabilitycouncil.org](mailto:info@concretesustainabilitycouncil.org)

[www.concretesustainabilitycouncil.org](http://www.concretesustainabilitycouncil.org)

Twitter [@ConcreteRSS](https://twitter.com/ConcreteRSS)

The CSC is a project supported by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI)

[cement@wbcsd.org](mailto:cement@wbcsd.org)

[www.wbcsd.org](http://www.wbcsd.org)

[www.wbcsdcement.org](http://www.wbcsdcement.org)

Twitter [#CementCSI](https://twitter.com/CementCSI)

**Committed to responsibly sourced concrete**