A-Z Glossary of Terms Associated with Social Value

ALLOCATION
The process of partitioning the input or output flows of a process or a product system between the product system under study and one or more other product systems used in methodology of carbon footprinting and life cycle assessments (LCA).

BAP
Abbreviation for Biodiversity Action Plan

BASELINE DATE
The date on which the carbon footprint or carbon disclosure was first determined in accordance with the methodology being claimed.

BES
Abbreviation for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

BES6001
A BRE methodology defining a framework of best practice in responsible sourcing of construction materials.

BIODIVERSITY
The natural resources that support all our lives. It is vital for the survival of human kind and is a key measure of the health of the planet.

BIODIVERSITY BENCHMARK
The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark aims to encourage better land management practices by assessing and endorsing best practice in biodiversity. The accreditation is composed of a set of detailed requirements to which an organisation must be able to demonstrate that it meets.

BONDED LABOUR
A system of forced or partly forced labour in which a person borrows money vital to survive, then works to pay off their debts to an employer.

BREEAM (BUILDING RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHOD)
The leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for determining the environmental performance of buildings. It sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design.

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTE (BSI)
BSI is the UK's national standards organisation that produces standards and information products that promote and share best practice. It serves the interests of a wide range of industry sectors as well as governments, consumers, employees and society overall, to make sure that British, European and international standards are useful, relevant and authoritative.

BS EN ISO 14001
A British, European and International Standard prescribing the requirements and guidance for use of an Environmental Management System.

BS EN ISO 9001
A British, European and International Standard prescribing the requirements of a Quality Management System.

BS OHSAS 18001
A British Standard prescribing the requirements of an Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

BS8902
A draft British Standard for the framework of responsible material sourcing.
BUSINESS COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT (BCE)
The longest running and one of the most prestigious Environmental Leadership Award schemes in the UK. The awards are sponsored by business for business and aim to provide a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership and innovation in corporate responsibility as an integral part of a business’ organisation.

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY (BITC)
BITC is a membership organisation that aims to positively shape a business’ impact on the environment, marketplace, workplace and community. It encourages businesses to act responsibly and make a positive impact on society by improving its CSR credentials. BITC is one of The Prince’s Charities.

CARBON CALCULATOR
Online tool showing how many tonnes of carbon dioxide are generated in the manufacture of hard landscaping products - from raw material to end of life disposal using PAS 2050 methodology. For the Driveway & Patio market it then suggests how many trees to plant to help offset the embodied carbon dioxide emissions of your new patio or drive.

CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT (CO2E)
The universal unit of measurement used to indicate the global warming potential of greenhouse gases expressed in the terms of the 100 year global warming potential of one metric tonne of carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide equivalent is calculated using the mass of a given greenhouse gas multiplied by its global warming potential.

CARBON FOOTPRINT
The sum of the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses created by a single unit of product during its life from raw material extraction, production, through the supply chain, to use and disposal.

CARBON LABELING SCHEME
Label showing the embodiment of all greenhouse gases emitted during the product’s lifecycle. All data is measured in compliance with the international PAS 2050 method for footprinting that has been developed by BSI British Standards, the Carbon Trust and Defra.

CARBON NEUTRAL
The act of achieving zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount offset.

CARBON OFFSETTING
Counter balancing carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of projects to reduce carbon such as planting trees and investing in renewable energy.

CARBON TRUST
A Government organisation with a mission to accelerate the move to a low carbon economy, by working with organisations to reduce carbon emissions now and develop commercial low carbon technologies for the future.

CARBON TRUST STANDARD
The Carbon Trust Standard certifies that an organisation has genuinely reduced its carbon footprint and is committed to making further reductions year-on-year. Assessment against the Standard is undertaken by independent third-party assessors, based on the evidence provided by the participating organisation. To achieve certification against the Standard an organisation must meet the requirements in all three areas by: measuring its key greenhouse gas emissions, showing good carbon management performance and being able to show emissions reduction over the last year – either on a total emissions basis, or on a relative basis (e.g. emissions/£m turnover).

CHAIN OF CUSTODY
The process used to maintain and document the unbroken path of a product from raw material source to customer delivery.
CHILD LABOUR
The employment of children engaged in regular and sustained labour. This practice is not only considered exploitative but is illegal in many countries. The minimum age depends on the country and the type of work involved however, the International Labour Organisation adopted a minimum age varying from 14 to 16.

CLIMATE CHANGE
A term that is commonly used interchangeably with ‘global warming’ and ‘the greenhouse effect’, however it is a more descriptive term. Climate change refers to the buildup of man-made gases in the atmosphere that trap the sun’s heat, causing changes in weather patterns on a global scale. The effects include changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise, potential droughts, habitat loss, and heat stress. The greenhouse gases of most concern are carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides. If these gases in the atmosphere double, the earth could warm up by 1.5 to 4.5 degrees by the year 2050, with changes in global precipitation having the greatest consequences.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)
According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development: “Corporate Social Responsibility is the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large.

CRC ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME (CRC)
A UK Government mandatory emissions trading scheme for non energy-intensive organisations in the public and private sector.

DEFRA
A UK Government Department with the aim of securing a healthy environment in which we and future generations can prosper.

ECOPOINTS
In order to provide a single score environmental assessment of different building materials specifications, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) developed Ecopoints. A UK Ecopoint score is a measure of the overall environmental impact of a particular product or process. The lower the Ecopoint score for a product, the lower the environmental impact. Applying the BRE-method as a benchmark, it has been determined that 100 Ecopoints are equal to the impact of one EU citizen on the environment for one year.

EMISSION FACTOR
The amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent and relative to a unit of activity. Emission factors are used to calculate GHG emissions from activity data such as fuel consumption, production, or consumption statistics. These factors are usually expressed as the weight of pollutant divided by a unit weight, volume, distance, or duration of the activity emitting the pollutant. Hence an emission factor is a representative value that attempts to relate the quantity of a pollutant released to the atmosphere with an activity associated with the release of that pollutant. Nationally recognised emission factor are available from the government departments such as DEFRA.

EMPLOYABILITY
The process of using Procurement practices to create employment opportunities for those in need. This may be through apprenticeship schemes, volunteering, placements, internships, graduate schemes but also may link to helping long term unemployed back into work, or those who have offended. This may also be addressing employment opportunities for the most vulnerable in society.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILES
A measurement enabling manufacturers to independently demonstrate the performance of products. The first step is to assess the environmental impact of a product. When this is known, improvements can be identified and comparisons can be made with other products from an environmental perspective.
ETHICAL TRADING INITIATIVE (ETI)
A diverse alliance of retailers and brands, trade unions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working collectively to tackle the complex questions posed by ethical trade. The ETI exists to improve working conditions in global supply chains by developing effective approaches to implementing the ETI Base Code of labour practice.

ETHICAL TRADING INITIATIVE BASE CODE
Based on the ILO’s Conventions and widely accepted as a model code of practice. The ETI Base Code contains provisions based on the following principles: - No-one should be forced to work- Workers should be able to join and form trade unions- Working conditions should be safe and healthy- Child labour shall not be used - Working hours should not be excessive- Wages should be enough to live on and provide some discretionary income - Workers should be treated equally, regardless of their sex, ethnic group, religion or political opinions - Where possible, workers should be provided with regular employment - Workers should not be verbally, physically or sexually abused or disciplined.

EU ETS
The EU ETS is a greenhouse gas emissions trading system covering the energy intensive sectors of the EU Member States. Sectors covered by the system include: power generation, cement, glass, ceramics, steel, aluminium, and pulp and paper, which are termed 'trading sectors'.

GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL (GWP)
This factor describing the radiative forcing impact of one mass-based unit of a given greenhouse gas relative to an equivalent unit of carbon dioxide over a given period of time. - Carbon dioxide is assigned a GWP of 1, while the GWP of other gases is expressed relative to the GWP of carbon dioxide from fossil carbon sources. Global warming potentials for a 100-year time period are produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

GREEN GUIDE
A BRE publication listing environmental profile ratings for commonly used construction materials. The rating is based on life cycle assessment environmental impacts in an as-built form and compared on a like-for-like basis with elements that fulfill the same function.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT
A natural phenomenon and is responsible for maintaining the planet's temperature 33°C higher than would otherwise be the case, thus allowing life to exist. It is caused when sunlight reaches the earth’s surface, which is converted into heat. This heat is re-radiated back into space in the form of infra-red radiation. Although visible light passes through the atmosphere, some of the infra-red radiation is absorbed by the so-called greenhouse gases.

GREENHOUSES GASES (GHG)
See also CO2e. Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere both natural and anthropogenic that absorb and emit radiation that causes the global temperature to rise leading to global climate to change. The main greenhouse gases that are: carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O) and a group of chlorine and flourine containing gases such as halo carbons (HFC’s) perfluorocarbons (PFC’s) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF6).

GREENWASH
When companies parade their green credentials without being able to ensure their supply chain integrity and environmental performance.

GRID AVERAGE ELECTRICITY EMISSIONS
Grid electricity is generated from a range of fuel sources which produce different amounts of emissions per unit of electricity generated. Grid average is the average emissions per unit of all electricity supplied by the grid and varies with time. The grid average emission factor can be found on the DEFRA website.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)
The tripartite UN agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of its member states in common action to promote decent work throughout the world.

IPCC
Abbreviation for the International Panel on Climate Change the leading intergovernmental body for the assessment of climate change, established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic consequences. The IPCC is a scientific body that reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (KPI)
Quantifiable measurements, agreed to beforehand, that reflect the critical success factors of an organisation.

KYOTO PROTOCOL
An international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialised countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)
Potentially the most important method for assessing the overall environmental impact of products, processes or services. It is also sometimes referred to as Life Cycle Analysis or LCA. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a tool that can be used to assess the environmental impacts of a product, process or service from design to disposal i.e. across its entire lifecycle, a so called cradle to grave approach.

LIVING STREETS
National charity that campaigns for pedestrians and public spaces. In partnership with supporters, the charity works to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, which put people first. They work with professionals and politicians to make sure every community can enjoy vibrant streets and public spaces.

LOCAL SUPPLY
Supply within an agreed radius. Usually this will be a town, country or regional boundary and with labour and materials with heritage form within that boundary.

MODERN SLAVERY
“Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour”. “Human trafficking”. “Meaning of exploitation”

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION (NGO)
A group(s) of volunteer unpaid citizens organised at the local, national or international level. They fulfill a humanitarian role and their function includes advising governments of citizens’ concerns and encouraging political involvement at the community level.

OFFSETTING
The mechanism for claiming a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with a process or product through the removal of, or preventing the release of, GHG emissions in a process unrelated to the life cycle of the product being assessed.

POLICY
A written statement defining the plan or course of action intended to influence decisions and actions.
RECYCLABLE
The claim that a product may be re-processed into new products.

RECYCLED CONTENT
The portion of a product that is made from materials directed from the waste stream; usually stated as a percentage by weight.

RENEWABLES OBLIGATION CERTIFICATE (ROC)
A Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) is issued to an accredited generator for eligible renewable electricity generated within the United Kingdom and supplied to customers within the United Kingdom by a licensed electricity supplier.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING
Provides a holistic approach to managing a product from the point at which a material is mined or harvested in its raw state through manufacture and processing, through use, re-use and recycling, until its final disposal as waste with no further value. Responsible sourcing of materials addresses aspects such as stakeholder engagement, labour practices and the management of supply chains.

SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS (DIRECT EMISSIONS)
This is the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the entity (described as direct emissions). This includes GHG emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, etc.; GHG emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment.

SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS (ENERGY INDIRECT)
This is the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the generation of energy utilized in direct connection to the activities of a particular entity/subject but occurring at sources owned or controlled by another entity. Electricity, heat, steam and cooling that is purchased or otherwise brought into the entity boundary.

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS (OTHER INDIRECT)
This is the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that is a consequence of the activity of an entity/subject but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity and which are not classified as Scope 2 emissions. Scope 3 includes the extraction and production of purchased materials; transportation of purchased fuels; and use of bought products and service; use of public transport such as rail and aircraft.

SECONDARY DATA
Non-process specific data obtained from sources other than direct measurement of the energy or business activities.

SMART
Abbreviation for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound.

STERN REVIEW
A report on the Economics of Climate Change is a report by economist Lord Stern of Brentford for the UK Government which discusses the effect of Climate Change and Global Warming on the world economy. It is significant as the largest and most widely known and discussed report of its kind. Its main conclusion is that the benefits of strong, early action on climate change considerably outweigh the costs. It proposes that two percent of global GDP per annum is required to be invested in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change, and that failure to do so could risk global GDP being up to twenty percent lower than it otherwise might be.

SUPPLY CHAIN
The network of retailers, distributors, transporters, storage facilities, and suppliers that participate in the production, delivery, and sale of a product or materials to the consumer. The supply chain is typically made up of multiple companies who coordinate activities to set themselves apart from the competition.
SUSTAINABILITY
Creating wellbeing and a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. Sustainability involves considering the global impact of actions before carrying them out and seeks to create a culture of responsibility. Achieving a goal of sustainability involves judging the long term merits of business decisions against the triple bottom line: 1 - Effective protection of the environment - Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone - Maintenance of stable levels of economic growth.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
According to the Forum for the Future: “A dynamic process which enables all people to realise their potential and improve their quality of life in ways which simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth’s life support systems”.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES
Begin with an appropriate design that includes functional, cost efficient, visually pleasing, environmentally friendly and maintainable areas.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS (SUDS)
Hard landscaping products designed to allow an acceptable volume of surface water to permeate through into the ground below, helping to reduce surface run-off and limit the impact on street drains.

TEEB (THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY)
The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global study, initiated by the G8 and five major developing economies and focusing on ‘the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation’.

UNITED KINGDOM ACCREDITATION SERVICES (UKAS)
UKAS is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services. Accreditation by UKAS demonstrates the competence, impartiality and performance capability of these evaluators. UKAS is a non-profit-distributing private company, limited by guarantee. UKAS is independent of Government but is appointed as the national accreditation body by the Accreditation Regulations 2009 (SI No 3155/2009) and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government through the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

VCSE
Voluntary, Charity & Social Enterprise

WATER HARVESTING
The process of capturing and saving rainwater for later use.

WILDLIFE TRUSTS
The largest UK voluntary organisation dedicated to conserving the full range of the UK’s habitats and species, whether they are in the countryside, in cities or at sea. With a vision of “an environment rich in wildlife for everyone” and a mission of “rebuild biodiversity and engage people with their environment.

ZERO CARBON
A term used in defining the CO2 emissions from any building, such as a Office or Home. The measure is the net emissions of CO2 from all energy used in the operational phase of the building from such things as heating, lighting, hot water and electrical equipment.