

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT POLICY

The understanding of how our operations impact the environment are critical to addressing Net-Zero Carbon strategy for our business. The leading technique for evaluating environmental burden is through the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) method. This method can help identify opportunities to improve environmental performance of products at various points in their lifecycle.

In a full Life Cycle Assessment, the energy and materials used, along with waste and pollutants produced as a consequence of a product or activity are quantified over the whole life cycle. The ISO 14040 standard refers to Life Cycle Assessment as, 'the collection and assessment of the inputs and outputs of any potential environmental impacts caused by the product system throughout its life cycle. The LCA can be used to prioritise improvement in process operation, product design and development and together with product carbon footprint analysis (PCF) can be used to develop Environmental Performance Declarations (EPD)s.

Life Cycle Assessment tools for use in environmental assessment can be classified in three levels:

- Level 1: Product comparison, bottom-up approach focused on individual materials and components.
- Level 2: Whole-building design or decision support tools such as Envest (UK)
- Level 3: Whole-building assessment frameworks or systems that use comparative scoring systems, such as BREEAM (UK)

Avantgarde Tiling is committed to reducing environmental impact from our business activities and will consider the need for LCA studies as part of the broad range of options to meet sustainability and environmental targets. We will utilise manufacturers' certification and EPDs to compare products and select those that are offering greater reduction of embodied carbon. We will assist our clients who are pursuing BREEAM accreditation with relevant information and encourage all our clients to evaluate and specify products which present the greatest environmental benefit and additionally consider length of product life, recyclability, and use of natural resources.

As a company, we will endeavour to influence our clients on their choice of design, whole-building framework, interactions with existing and future structures and products and materials, to minimise any environmental impact in line with our ISO 14001 policy, and responsible sourcing policy, along with consideration for the lifecycle and maintenance of the building. The policy is reviewed annually and any improvements identified will be implemented.

Barbara Zanasi
Avantgarde Tiling Ltd
Managing Director

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