As the popularity of Green Building Rating Systems (GBRS) continues to grow, their scope is becoming increasingly more sophisticated. This is good for everyone, because it sets more demanding green building standards for specifiers, encourages manufacturers to create more sustainable products and means better buildings for everyone.

There are more than two billion square metres now covered in the world by the ‘big five’ GBRS worldwide, and as their influence has grown these schemes have continuously evolved and upgraded their criteria with the aim of exceeding current and future building regulations and including more responsible practices.

According to new research by the European Insulation Manufacturers Association (Eurima), the scope of GBRS now extends far beyond narrower ‘green’ concepts of 15 years ago into issues such as acoustic performance, indoor air quality, sustainable sourcing, life cycle impacts, life cycle costing, construction and demolition waste management without minimising energy efficiency and thermal comfort aspects.

In other words, as GBRS continue to shape the construction landscape they are also becoming more ‘well-being focused’, more ‘performance-oriented’ and more ‘life-cycle centred’.

Specific trends highlighted by the Eurima research include issues such as real performance compared to design performance, encompassing broader corporate responsibility issues such as sustainable sourcing and ethics as well as zero impact or positive impact on the environment particularly when it comes to carbon, energy and water.

"Step by step, we have seen the rise of GBRS which have a more holistic approach at building level — and even neighbourhood level — by the inclusion of, for example, indoor air quality or acoustics issues," says Jean-Pierre Pigeole, Knauf Insulation’s Products & Buildings Sustainability Manager, who is also a licensed BREEAM assessor and DGNB Consultant.

“Our focus on Lifecycle Assessments at Knauf Insulation has also paid dividends as GBRS are now pushing to reach the upper level of a global building LCA through the development of new criteria such as in the case of LEEDv4.”

Naturally, these evolutionary changes create a challenge for specifiers because they have to ensure they have the expertise available to maximise their points potential.

SO, HOW CAN KNAUF INSULATION HELP?

We have upgraded our expertise to help specifiers maximise their GBRS points potential at every level. We have a team of trained GBRS Assessors who speak the language of BREEAM, LEED, DGNB, WELL and HQE fluently.

“A LEED project sees the key to its success in sharing knowledge and skills, teamwork and effective collaboration. A vital role is given to manufacturers who, in addition to providing products that meet the technical and aesthetic features of the project, have to face many requests from contractors such as tests, declarations and certificates attesting the sustainability criteria of their products in relation to the LEED credits of the project. Our experience with Knauf Insulation was great, not only due to the quality of their products, but also for the support that their technical experts provided to designers and contractors.”

Paola Moschini, Architect and LEED Accredited Professional (AP), Macro Design Studio srl, Italy

NEW LEED SHOPPING CENTRE PROJECT

The new 4,500 m² three-level Coop of Formigine shopping centre has been designed, built and inaugurated in line with the parameters of the ‘LEED for Retail’ protocol and certification is in progress. The high-performance envelope has been insulated with Knauf Insulation Rock Mineral Wool.

FREE DGNB BUILDING IN SLOVENIA

Our new Knauf Insulation Training Center building should be one of the first DGNB certified buildings in Slovenia and feature a range of our products including our Green Roof Solution Urbanscape®. Work was scheduled to start in 2017 and finish in 2018.

THE NETHERLANDS

Mariëtte Willems, Technical Product Manager and BREEAM-NL expert

SUBSIDIES BOOST GREEN BUILDING RATE

Since 2009, the number of BREEAM NL projects registered with the Dutch Green Building Council has increased every year. One of the reasons is that investors get subsidies for green building. We are also seeing campaigns focused on wider aspects of green building such as air quality in schools.

TEAM WORK TO SUPPORT PROJECTS

As an expert in BREEAM-NL, I get questions all the time about certification and how to collect credits. Also, we work with Knauf Gypsum to provide what is known as KnaufZeker which guarantees system performance. This means we can support customers at the important early stages of projects and for aspects such as noise reduction or materials — mentioned in BREEAM.

FIRST BREEAM EXCELLENCE HOSPITAL

Haga Hospital, which has more than 3,700 employees, is the first hospital in The Netherlands to achieve BREEAM Excellent certification. Achieving optimal sound insulation was critical and this is why our Acoustic technology with ECOR® Technology was chosen. It contributes to good indoor air quality, consists of 80% recycled glass, provides 30 minutes of fire resistance and reduces noise by 52 dB. A total of 11,000 m² of insulation was provided by Knauf Insulation including single wall and double gypsum board from Knauf.

SLOVENIA

Domen Ivanšek Technical Customer Support Representative in Slovenia, DGNB registered professional

ALL THE DOCUMENTS CUSTOMERS NEED

Knauf Insulation has a good Environmental Product Declaration database, easily downloadable GBRS documents and technically advanced systems. Having green building expertise helps me comprehensively explain the technical advantages of our solutions.

ITALY

Francesco Cavicchioli, Knauf Insulation’s Product Manager Walls & Facades in Italy, LEED expert

GREEN BUILDING DEMAND IS GROWING IN ITALY

In Italy we are getting more and more requests for LEED and BREEAM. These requests are mainly from foreign investors in Italy and there is an increase in demand. In February 2017 the government introduced a new mandatory version of the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) for new public buildings or their renovation which, for example, insists on minimum energy performance and that recycled materials must make up to 15% of the weight of all materials used.

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIERS’ NEEDS

The conversations I have with specifiers vary according to their requirements, but my ability to understand how the green systems work and how we can contribute means I communicate on a specialist level. Specifiers are always interested in Knauf Insulation’s LEED and BREEAM factsheets that show how we contribute points.

Visit our website to see how our solutions contribute to points. Simply click on the ‘Sustainable Buildings and Green Building Rating Systems’ section of knaufinsulation.com

OUR GREEN TEAM

At Knauf Insulation our technical specialists offer a wide range of Green Building Rating System expertise from LEED and BREEAM to DGNB, HQE and WELL. For specifiers who need support to navigate the growing complexities of these systems we are here to help.
protection performance. It offers exceptional thermal, acoustic and fire protection, and was used in the ventilated façade system and provided Rock Mineral Wool boards which met all the requirements for eco-friendly materials and took clear responsibility for what they sold, providing us with declarations that guaranteed 50% recycled materials in the composition of their Rock Mineral Wool boards."

Richard Burleigh, President Skanska Construction, Romania

At Skanska we care about the sustainability of our projects and are continuing our efforts to build green cities by maintaining a high level of investment in development projects and environment-based activities. In this respect, Skanska paired up with Knauf Insulation in Romania, a company that shares the same values and environmental vision. Knauf Insulation met all the requirements for eco-friendly materials and took clear responsibility for what they sold, providing us with declarations that guaranteed 50% recycled materials in the composition of their Rock Mineral Wool boards."

Richard Burleigh, President Skanska Construction, Romania

Incentives for Green Buildings

The number of certified green buildings has grown from just two in 2009 to 200 in 2014 in Romania, so there is a lot of interest. There is also a lot of competition between companies, if one wants to achieve LEED Gold, for example, another will aim to get Platinum. Additionally, there are city hall incentives for green building through tax deductions.

EPO Training

I take part in a lot of trainings and it is good to develop connections with assessors and other stakeholders as well as share information about, for example, our Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) which gives us an advantage.

New Lidl Headquarters

Skansa is building a 12, 500 m² headquarters for LIDL which is scheduled to be certified BREEAM Excellent. Knauf Insulation provided Rock Mineral Wool boards which use more than 50% recycled content from our nearby Nova Bana plant, Slovakia, in line with the green system's criteria. The product was used in the ventilated façade system and offers exceptional thermal, acoustic and fire protection performance.

United Kingdom

Iain Macmillan, Knauf Insulation’s Technical Development Manager in the UK, ex-passive house certifier and designer, who previously worked for the Building Research Establishment

Buildability and Fabric-First Approach

A lot of my work is based around buildability and takes a fabric-first approach. In the UK, when it comes to buildings we have a big problem of building design compared to the reality of performance.

My work is not just about understanding the building but also how we can achieve performance that has been promised. For example, Knauf Insulation in the UK is carrying out a number of large scale projects to examine areas such as how we can control issues of installation to ensure energy efficient performance; the improvement of building health and comfort levels or better understanding the impact of occupant behaviour.

By researching data such as this we can provide the evidence base to campaign for government support for better buildings.

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Radu Mosteanu, Knauf Insulation’s Technical Representative in Romania, trained in BREEAM

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