



Materials ¹

The [Global reporting Initiative aspect](#) for Materials allows for the core indicators of;

- **Materials used by weight or volume.**
- **Percentage of materials used that are recycled input materials.**

An overall perspective for sites is available from the [Australian government portal](#). A [technical manual](#) is available which covers all aspects for more sustainable domestic and commercial buildings, including a useful [checklist](#).

Building green

The increasing pressure of community, scientific and political concerns has seen a growth in standards to provide a more systematic way of looking at an organisation's environmental performance with a view to both reducing negative impacts and operating the business on a more economical basis.

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) are used to communicate environmental impact and standard terms are documented in the [ISO 14000 series](#). These International Standards specify requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and information about significant environmental aspects. It applies to those environmental aspects that the organization identifies as those which it can and those which it can influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria.

The heightened awareness of the importance of environmental protection, and the possible impacts associated with products manufactured and consumed, has increased the interest in the development of methods to better comprehend and reduce these impacts. One of the techniques being developed for this purpose is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). [International Standard AS/NZS ISO 14040:1998](#) describes the principles and framework for conducting and reporting LCA studies, and includes certain minimal requirements.

The [International Standard Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing AS/NZS ISO 19011](#) provides guidance on the principles of auditing, managing audit programmes, conducting quality management system audits and environmental management system audits, as well as guidance on the competence of quality and environmental management system auditors

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces statistics on a wide range of environment and energy related activities. The ABS has established a Centre of Environment and Energy Statistics (CEES) which seeks to complement and add value to existing statistical activity with a series of [Environment & Energy @ a Glance](#).

¹ The ebb and flow of web information allows us to share and travel with it in a community-centered way. Feel free to agree or take issue with the contents of these papers. They are the Aptly "take" on information and thought developed over many years and rely heavily on work already done in the field and referenced throughout.

The [Australian Yearbook](#) provides housing information also.

An Office [self-rating tool](#) is available from the NSW Government's NABERS site.

The Green Tag certification system can be stand alone or it can be used to assess products against other Australian green building schemes such as BASIX, BCA, and NABERS, and international green building schemes such as LEED, BREEAM, and Green Building Index. http://www.homeimprovementpages.com.au/article/what_green_tag_certified_means.

There are four levels of Green Tag certification – platinum, gold, silver, and bronze. Each of these complies with or exceeds the requirements set out by international green building rating requirements.

Orientation of a building on the site can greatly influence energy us. The [Mapconnect](#) information can be used to find the latitude of any Australian building site.

Most specific regulatory information is available from State and Local web sources.

By local area, any of your own local Council's materials information can be searched at the [Australian Local Government Association](#) website.