



Transforming Britain's Landscapes

Marshalls Developing Ecopoints for Commercial Landscapes

The construction industry has long needed a consistent measure to assess the impact a building or scheme of work has on the environment. It is simply not good enough to ignore the impact our activities are having on the environment if we are to be part of a more sustainable world. The private and public sectors are all too aware of tighter legislation and commercial pressure driving the industry to become more aware and better equipped.

Accurate environmental profiling is vital in order to provide meaningful comparisons between different products. Although CO₂ (GHG) is the most important, other significant factors can be considered such as pollution, waste disposal and water extraction. With environmental profiling, designers are able to compare products for similar building specifications and merchants can present accurate and validated environmental information about their products.

Marshalls is currently working with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to establish the Ecopoints rating for its commercial products, in order to provide a single score environmental assessment of different building materials, based on a complete Life Cycle Assessment.

Ecopoints are based on a range of 13 different environmental impacts, which are then given percentage weightings based on the relative importance of different sustainability issues:

1. Climate change
2. Water extraction
3. Mineral resource extraction
4. Stratospheric ozone depletion
5. Human toxicity
6. Ecotoxicity to freshwater
7. Nuclear waste (higher level)
8. Ecotoxicity to land
9. Waste disposal
10. Fossil fuel depletion
11. Eutrophication
12. Photochemical ozone creation
13. Acidification

Results from the work Marshalls is undertaking with BRE are due in Autumn 2009.