Glossary

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) as defined by ISO 14040 “is a technique for assessing the environmental aspects and potential impacts associated with a product by:

- compiling an inventory of relevant inputs & outputs of a product system;
- evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with those inputs & outputs;
- interpreting the results of the inventory analysis and impact assessment phases in relation to the objectives of the study.”

EMBODDIED ENERGY

Embodied energy is the energy consumed by all of the processes associated with the production of a building, from the mining and processing of natural resources to manufacturing, transport and product delivery. Embodied energy does not include the operation and disposal of the building material, which would be considered in a life cycle approach. Embodied energy is the ‘upstream’ or ‘front-end’ component of the life cycle impact of a home.

SUSTAINBALE MATERIAL

The concepts of sustainability and sustainable development arose from concerns that our economic imperatives – the provision of products and services, the growth of communities and businesses – is proceeding at a rate and manner that undermines the earth's capacity to supply resources, absorb wastes, and support the incredibly diverse life that it does – including people.

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

Sustainable construction refers to both a structure and the using of processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle: from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition

SUSTAINABILITY

The most often quoted definition comes from the UN Bruntland commission: “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”