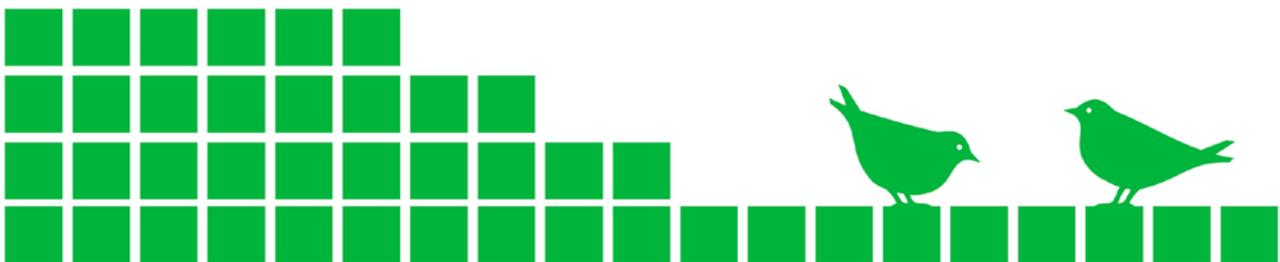




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**Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC)**  
**Project Summary**





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## **What is the CSC Responsible Sourcing Scheme**

The Responsible Sourcing Scheme (RSS) for concrete provides qualitative information that identifies and promotes responsible practices throughout the concrete supply chain addressing both social and environmental impacts of the business, leading to the set-up of a certification process for concrete producers. It is based on a set of agreed principles of sustainability, the precise scope of which is determined by stakeholder engagement.

## **History and background**

In October 2013, the WBCSD Cement Sustainability Initiative and its concrete and cement partners came together to begin the process of developing an international responsible sourcing certification system for the concrete sector. By putting in place a certification system for responsibly sourced concrete, we wanted to improve concrete's performance and demonstrate its role in providing solutions for the built environment.

Believing that the concrete industry needed a systematic way to demonstrate its performance on a transparent and recognised way, while at the same time pushing for continuous improvement, six primary objectives for developing a responsible sourcing certification system had been set out:

1. **Improve concrete's sustainable performance** by promoting responsible practices throughout the whole value chain and incentivizing continuous improvement;
2. **Improve transparency of the concrete sector** by making sustainable initiatives more visible and enabling your organization to demonstrate leadership;
3. **Get recognition for the sustainable effort in certification rating systems** by getting credits for responsibly sourced concrete from green building rating systems such as LEED, BREEAM, DGNB, GreenStar, HQE, etc.;
4. **Get recognition in "green procurement" government policies;**
5. **Improve the public perception both the concrete as a product and the sector as a whole.** Competing sectors (wood, steel, aluminium) have so far managed to better position their product and sector and are sometimes perceived to be greener. More (and independently recognised) communication about the sustainable performance of the concrete sector and being more transparent will improve public opinion; and
6. **Improve the business case for responsible/sustainable concrete.** The responsible sourcing system will provide tangible evidence to share with customers, stakeholders and shareholders, supporting internal investment in sustainability initiatives.

The idea about developing a responsible sourcing scheme came from selected actors from the industry and the first stages of the process were spent to get the support of the whole concrete sector and the value chain related to concrete production. We focused on understanding the very different needs, viewpoints, and current best practices within our very diverse internal stakeholders (different geographies, value chains, company types - global, vertically integrated companies vs. small, local, independent producers of concrete or aggregates). An agreement to develop a responsible sourcing system for concrete was reached during the International Concrete Sustainability Conference, in Medellín, Colombia in January 2014.



In addition to the WBCSD – CSI and its companies, the following organizations were involved in this project from the very beginning:

- European Concrete Platform (ECP)
- European Federation of Admixtures Associations (EFCA)
- Federación Iberoamericana de Productores de Aridos (FIPA, Ibero-American Aggregates Association)
- Federación Iberoamericana del Hormigón Premezclado (FIHP, Ibero-American Readymix Association)
- Federación Interamericana del Cemento (FICEM, Interamerican Cement Association)
- National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
- Portland Cement Association (PCA)
- Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats (UEPG, European Association of Aggregate Producers)



The project started in February 2014. A project governance was set up with three committees (the Steering Committee – the decision making body, the technical committee which drafted the criteria,

and the communication strategy was developed by the communication committee.

The committees are composed of representatives from companies and associations from the aggregate industry, cement industry, concrete industry, construction companies and certification bodies. The CSI has ensured the coordination of the standard-setting process.

In order to develop the program, an analysis of several other responsible sourcing schemes have been made. Meetings have been held with BRE (BES6001), VOBN (BetonBewust concrete scheme), experts of ISO26000, FSC Netherlands and the NRMCA (Green Plantguide) leading to an ambitious set of criteria (see comparison chart attached).

A first draft of the scheme has been written open source ([www.concretesustainabilitycouncil.org/wiki](http://www.concretesustainabilitycouncil.org/wiki)). Interested parties that want to comment have been accepted as writers on the wiki (everybody else can read), for example the Loughborough University (professor Jaqueline Glass).

A first feedback round from companies (desktop review by both plant operators and staff functions) was organized in December 2014 until February 2015. The objective was to have a well-tailored scheme, that can be used by small and medium sized companies as well and have evidence requirements that can be locally available.

Based on this feedback, the scoring system and weighting has been developed.

In May 2015, the CSC Steering Committee accepted the draft of the scheme as a scheme ready for a pilot phase and stakeholder consultation with support of the concrete supply chain in Europe, Middle East, South America and North America.

Having reached a wide consensus among the concrete industry and its value chain on the importance of the project, we now want to ensure that our standard-setting process is transparent, inclusive and effective. Next steps will be:

- selection of the stakeholder representatives for the Steering Committee;
- implementation of the stakeholder outreach programme in cooperation with IUCN;
- development and implementation of the communication strategy and plan;
- work on a credible governance model (SGS, ECRA and Kiwa, as certification institutes have become founding members who help on defining a third party independent governance structure).



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- Establish the CSC as an organization, start the accreditation procedure with ISEAL, and start the process to develop a version 1 of the scheme, ready for certification.

#### Meeting of the steering committee May 2015

To date, the CSC has a number of supporting members, which include five of the biggest cement and concrete players i.e. LafargeHolcim, CEMEX, CRH, SCG and HeidelbergCement, as well as certification companies as GreyMatters, kiwa and SGS, and associations such as the European Concrete Platform (ECP)<sup>1</sup>, North American Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)<sup>2</sup> and Dutch Ready Mixed Concrete Association (VOBN)<sup>3</sup>.

### **The Scheme**

The setting of the scheme has been led by the CSC Technical committee and it encompasses four major areas, namely (weight of each category in overall evaluation in brackets):

1. Management (30%)
2. Environment (35%)
3. Social (20%)
4. Economic (15%)

In each of these areas, there are a number of criteria, which give different points depending on the achieved level of sustainability (See Scheme's Manual attached).

Having reached a wide consensus among the concrete industry and its value chain on the importance of the project, we now want to ensure that our standard-setting process is transparent, inclusive and effective and get feedback from relevant representatives of the Civil society and International Organisation on each topic of the scheme.

### **About the WBCSD CSI**

The CSI is a global effort by 24 leading cement producers, with operations in more than 100 countries. Collectively these companies account for around 30% of the world's cement production and range in size from very large multinationals to smaller local producers. All CSI members have integrated sustainable development into their business strategies and operations, as they seek strong financial performance with an equally strong commitment to social and environmental responsibility. The CSI is a sectoral project of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

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<sup>1</sup> [www.europeanconcrete.eu](http://www.europeanconcrete.eu)

<sup>2</sup> [www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org)

<sup>3</sup> [www.vobn-beton.nl](http://www.vobn-beton.nl)