

EPD Case Study



Kingspan Insulation Panels is part of the Dublin-based global Kingspan Group, the world's largest manufacturer of insulated panels.

Our clients are architects, builders, contractors and installers who use our panels on schools, government buildings, retail outlets, shopping centres and other commercial and community buildings. The panels are mainly used for walls and roofing. Kingspan's St Mary's, New South Wales, branch employs around 50 staff and is responsible for manufacture and distribution of insulation panels across Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia.

We spoke to Dr Mark Tatam, Technical manager at Kingspan Insulated Panels and asked him,

What motivated Kingspan to develop your EPDs?

“Kingspan prides itself on its environmentally-responsible approach to business.

Sustainability credentials have always been high on our list of priorities. Several years ago we started life cycle assessments and about four years ago we graduated onto developing EPDs, hopeful this would make our environmental credentials easier for the market to understand. **The market has an interest in buildings** with little or no environmental impact and increasingly, those in charge of procurement will be looking for the most sustainable products. With that in mind, **it made sense for us to get recognition** for our leadership in this regard. We also wanted to understand the environmental impact of our products and find ways to reduce those impacts. The EPD process offered us that opportunity.”



Why did you decide to register your EPDs with the Australasian EPD Programme, rather than another provider?

“We originally registered with another EPD programme but we saw that the Australasian EPD Programme had **top-tier companies that we respected**. We knew we’d be in good company and **we’d have an EPD with international recognition**. Also, as we grew to understand EPDs more, we realised the Australasian EPD offers third party assessments, so it is much more robust than EPDs conducted by self-declaration or in-house performance assessments. **It’s comprehensive and unambiguous** and this means we have been evaluated by the most demanding criteria available.”

How do you intend to use your EPDs?

“**We see the use of the EPDs going in two key directions**. Firstly we plan to use the EPDs to demonstrate the environmental footprints of our products in the marketplace, and demonstrate how to design buildings that have a low environmental impact over their lifespan. Secondly the information obtained in the EPDs will be used to establish areas for performance improvement within Kingspan in manufacturing and procurement processes, and for the selection of materials and components in product design and improvement.”

What advice would you give to other companies thinking of developing an EPD?

“Do it. The process of developing an Australasian EPD made us a better company. It forced us to assess our suppliers and consider the best ways to source products.

The whole EPD process also gave our suppliers a clear indication of where our priorities lie so it’s encouraged them to consider their environmental credentials.

The process also helped instil company values and build on positive staff morale. Our people are proud we make sustainable products. All of these factors help secure the longevity of the business. The bigger vision is, **if everyone does this, it will shine a light on each business’s supply chain and thereby lift the quality of products available for the construction sector, which will benefit us all.**”