






Environmental Product Declarations

The perfect way to communicate environmental data and information.

Achieving a verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for your product or service with EPD Australasia can be a major asset in helping to:

-  Quantify impact across a broad range of environmental issues to reduce corporate risk and improve your product or service performance
-  Avoid greenwashing and provide a sound basis for marketing claims
-  Provide comprehensive and credible information to your customers on the environmental performance of your product or service.

WHAT IS AN EPD?

An EPD reports environmental data over the life cycle of a product or service in accordance with the international standard ISO 14025.

An EPD is robust, objective and transparent, providing key data in a uniform format. EPDs are registered documents that provide relevant, verified and comparable information.



Why publish an EPD for your product or service?

Proactive companies that want to transparently report about their environmental footprint are increasingly publishing EPDs, both in Australasia and in overseas markets.

Since the launch of EPD Australasia in 2014 there has been significant recognition of the benefits EPDs provide and membership in the programme is growing. More and more leading companies in Australasia understand the benefits of taking a life cycle-based communication approach for their product environmental profile.

Typically, EPDs are produced for the following reasons:

International acceptance

EPDs registered with EPD Australasia are based on the ISO standard ISO 14025 and the rules of the International EPD® System, assuring international acceptability.



Adaptable

An EPD has no minimum level or preferences of environmental performance. An EPD's main purpose is to communicate the environmental impact of a product or service accurately and transparently. EPDs are open to all types of products, target audiences and markets.



Any type of goods or service can have an EPD.

An EPD provides objective facts rather than meeting specific demands.

Credible

EPDs are based on the scientific principles of life cycle assessment (LCA) and approved through expert independent verification. The EPD registration process ensures periodic checks on data to ensure EPDs are accurate at all times.



Comparable

The information in an EPD is collected and calculated based on internationally accepted and harmonised Product Category Rules (PCRs) ensuring EPDs within a category of products can be compared to each other on an equal basis. For example, all construction products must be prepared according to a PCR based on EN 15804.



Sustainable procurement

With the publication of ISO 20400:2017 sustainable procurement requirements are becoming more predominant in purchasing decisions. EPDs assist in corporate and government purchasing decisions by providing a tool for communicating information on social responsibility, quality control as well as environmental management.



Green Star and ISCA Credits

EPD data and information is used to aid environmental assessment of building design and infrastructure projects.

Building and construction products with an EPD help clients obtain credits for Green Star and Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) rated projects across Australasia. Further information on EPD recognition for green buildings in Australasia and overseas markets is available on the EPD Australasia website www.epd-australasia.com



As we are internationally aligned Australasian EPDs can also be used to obtain credits in US LEED, UK BREAM as well as meet other export markets private and public sustainable procurement requirements. EPD data may also be used in building design support tools such as LCAQuick, eTool and similar.

Publicly available and globally recognised

All EPDs registered with EPD Australasia are published and freely available from the website www.epd-australasia.com.

As we are aligned with the International EPD® System they are also published on their website www.environdec.com



EPDs, Climate Declarations and Carbon Neutral Certification

All EPD's published by EPD Australasia must include verified data on the global warming potential (carbon footprint) of their product. The following summarise two additional "add-on" services specifically focused on this issue.

Climate Declarations

A Climate Declaration is a stand-alone declaration of the global warming potential of a product. As a single-issue EPD a Climate Declaration assists an organisation to better communicate and manage their carbon emissions. It refers to an EPD for full data and information.

When an EPD is registered with EPD Australasia, a Climate Declaration may also be registered by request. Alternatively, a Climate Declaration can be prepared and published at a later date provided the full EPD is still valid. A small fee may apply for publication of a Climate Declaration.

Carbon Neutral Certification with NCOS

Organisations with EPDs registered with EPD Australasia are also eligible for a streamlined certification process as part of the Australian Government's *National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) for Products and Services*. This NCOS Standard can be used to obtain carbon neutral certification and credibly claim carbon neutrality. The streamlined certification process is explained in a guideline which is available on the [Publications section of the Department of Environment and Energy website](#).

What users say about EPD

"Our customers have told us that they want to understand how their choices and product selections impact the environment."

"In a crowded market, we need to be able to clearly articulate why we are the best choice for customers. Our EPDs are a key differentiator and enable us to set the benchmark for sustainable tissue manufacturing in Australia and New Zealand in a way that is credible, transparent and comparable."

Jane Mansfield,
Sustainability Manager,
Asaleo Care.

"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."

Dr Mark Tatam,
Technical Manager,
Kingspan Insulated Panel

"The perception of plastic pipes needed to be clarified and we wanted a system that would allow us to be open and transparent."

"We wanted to be early adopters of EPDs because we recognise that market and the government demand accountability and EPDs will help us provide it."

Mark Heathcote, General Manager,
Plastics Industry Pipe Association
of Australia (PIPA)



Information provided by EPDs

EPDs are flexible environmental declarations that provide information on use of resources and energy as well as various types of emissions, based on a life cycle assessment (LCA). These LCA results can be used to tell the whole life cycle story about a product.

An EPD may also contain other environmental information additional to the LCA, such as specific information about the installation, use and the end-of-life phases. Information about the independent verification must be included.

EPDs typically include company information, technical descriptions, use other resources data, environmental impacts discussions. Other environmental information relevant to a product and service are often included. Many companies use EPDs to highlight areas they have sustainable policies in place to address.

Why EPDs make sense

EPDs present market relevant and verified environmental information about goods and services from a life cycle perspective. EPD Australasia is part of the world's broadest system for environmental declarations. The programme has a global scope covering all types of goods and services.

An EPD improves your environmental work through targeted decision-making and communications based on objective facts. With an EPD you can:

- Fairly compare environmental data and performance
- Reflect continuous environmental improvement
- Present relevant environmental information.

Make business decisions with EPDs

The information in an EPD is objective and can be used in many ways regardless of whom you want to reach, whether it is product designers, environmental managers, supply chain partners or consumers. These are the most common areas where decision makers use an EPD:

- Environmental management - monitoring and improving performance of products.
- Business-to-business - communicating performance with reliable data
- Business-to-consumer - communicating the difference you are making for the environment
- Rating tools - verifying compliance and gaining credits through presenting your EPD.

Environmental Management

EPDs are a way of creating a baseline for environmental performance in a company. Performance can gradually be improved with the help of monitoring.

Supply Chain Co-operation

All businesses operating in a supply chain may benefit from developing EPDs to show the environmental information desired by buyers. EPDs are efficient management of information reducing the workload in a tender process.

Talk directly to customers

For consumer products, an EPD can be presented on the packaging and in marketing materials. EPDs aimed at consumer products are simplified and easy to understand.

Market Outlook for EPDs

EPD Australasia anticipates growing interest in using EPDs driven by a variety of factors including:

- Increased recognition of EPDs in Green Building and Sustainable Infrastructure rating tools
- Global growth in the green building market
- Sustainable procurement policies in private and public sectors
- Development of overseas markets and sectors that recognise EPDs
- Inclusion of a life cycle perspective within environmental management system (EMS), in-line with ISO 14001: 2015

How to create an EPD

Creating an EPD and getting it registered and published by EPD Australasia includes the following steps:

1. Find, or create, a relevant Product Category Rule (PCR) for your product
2. Undertake an LCA study according to the PCR
3. Compile the EPD Report based on the LCA
4. Get the EPD and background data independently verified
5. Registration and publication with EPD Australasia and the International EPD® System

Verification and maintenance

All EPDs are verified either by an independent verifier, or certification bodies. For registration with EPD Australasia only approved verifiers or accredited certification bodies may be used. A list of approved verifiers can be found at the EPD Australasia's website www.epd-australasia.com

EPDs are registered for a set period of time, 5 years for construction products and usually 3 years for other products. EPDs and key background data are reassessed annually to ensure data validity. At the end of the validity period an EPD and its supporting LCA are updated and re-verified.

Standards and Compliance

EPDs produced through EPD Australasia are verified documents in accordance with the international standard ISO 14025 (Type III Environmental Declarations). For construction products we also require EPDs to be verified according to EN 15804.

Importantly for the construction sector, EPD compliance with ISO 14025 and EN 15804 is required by leading organisations such as the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia.

Cost of publishing an EPD?

The costs of preparing an EPD will vary according to project size and complexity. Typically costs include:

1. Undertaking a background Life Cycle Assessment, including data gathering, and compiling data into the EPD reporting format
2. Independent verification of the LCA and EPD by an approved verifier or an accredited certification body
3. Designing the EPD
4. Membership of EPD Australia and registration of the EPD.

The fees for membership and registration of EPDs with the EPD Australasia are published on our website www.epd-australasia.com.

About EPD Australasia

EPD Australasia registers EPDs for any product or service produced or supplied into Australia or New Zealand.

EPD Australasia is operated by The Australasian EPD Programme - a joint venture of the Australian Life Cycle Assessment Society (ALCAS) and the Life Cycle Association of New Zealand (LCANZ) and is part an international network of EPD providers via the International EPD® System. It operates on a non-profit basis for the benefit of Australian and New Zealand business and the members of ALCAS and LCANZ.

Contact

EPD Australasia would love to talk to you about how an EPD or Climate Declaration can benefit your business.

If you have any questions, please contact us:

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www.epd-australasia.com

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ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

