Achieving Sustainable Masterplans

BREEAM Communities

BREEAM Communities is an international certification scheme used to improve, measure and assess the economic, social and environmental sustainability of developments by integrating sustainable design into the masterplanning process.
Saving time and money

BREEAM Communities saves money and time by:

- Promoting early consideration of sustainable opportunities and challenges, thus ensuring they are addressed through cost effective solutions.
- Using site-wide design approaches or technical solutions that result in economies of scale such as site wide energy solutions or drainage systems.
- Reducing long-term costs related to: security, flooding, transport infrastructure and social sustainability issues such as public health and fuel poverty, through good design.
- Smoothing out and reducing costs throughout the planning process.
- Increasing the long term value of the area by promoting higher sale and rental prices.

Our Developers

BREEAM Communities provides a comprehensive and flexible framework to successfully integrate all aspects of sustainability.

A wide range of community issues, such as; energy provision and carbon reduction, local economic impact, ecological enhancement, housing provision, transport networks, community facilities, etc. are covered through this assessment methodology with equal weights spread across environmental, social and economic factors.

It is designed to be flexible to reflect the unique challenges and opportunities on different development sites, including developments phased over lengthier timescales. It also helps demonstrate that a development proposal satisfies local policies.

BREEAM Communities provides design teams with a common framework to consider sustainability, encouraging collaboration and dialog between key stakeholders and the community at the earliest possible stages.

“Using a defined set of criteria for the creation of sustainable communities means that it is more likely that these are properly considered and sustainable designs are realised.”

Ross Peedle, Architect, John Thompson & Partners

A tool for the UK & international market

The scope of the technical manual for BREEAM Communities 2012 scheme (v1.2) enables assessment of most masterplanning projects, regardless of location.

In the UK the certification scheme aligns with UK planning policy and masterplanning practice.

When the certification scheme is applied internationally it can be adapted to the local context through the flexible criteria which, account for elements such as; climatic conditions, local standards and regulations and cultural variations.
Qinglong Mountain New Eco-city Project is committed to deliver an exemplary green habitation with the help of BREEAM [Communities] Standards. All new and reconstructed buildings within the planning area will satisfy their targeted levels under green buildings standards in order to follow the development trend of the new city.

Rui Xueping, Executive Vice-director of Committee for Reconstruction of Old Shangfang

55+ projects certified or registered worldwide

Our international impact

To date over 20 projects have been certified under BREEAM Communities with another 35+ currently registered and undergoing assessment, with the size of development currently ranging from 2 ha to 179ha. There are currently around 100 licenced assessor in 15 countries.

"Qinglong Mountain New Eco-city Project is committed to deliver an exemplary green habitation with the help of BREEAM [Communities] Standards. All new and reconstructed buildings within the planning area will satisfy their targeted levels under green buildings standards in order to follow the development trend of the new city."

Rui Xueping, Executive Vice-director of Committee for Reconstruction of Old Shangfang
“We want to ensure that our inhabitants live in the best possible environment to ensure their overall wellbeing. The BREEAM Communities certification has guided us firmly and surely towards that goal.”

Gunnar Einarsson, Mayor of Gardabaer

© BRE Global Ltd 2018

BREEAM is a registered trade mark owned by BRE (the Building Research Establishment Ltd. Community Trade Mark E5778551). The BREEAM marks, logos and symbols are the Copyright of BRE and are reproduced by permission.

BRE Trust

The BRE Trust uses profits made by BRE Group to fund new research and education programmes, that will help it meet its goal of ‘building a better world together’.

The BRE Trust is a registered charity in England & Wales: No. 1092193, and Scotland: No. SC039320.