EmiratesGBC Technical Workshops

by Grey Matters

Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC) Certification and its contribution to LEED v5

Presented by **Omar Fakih, Sustainability Consultant**

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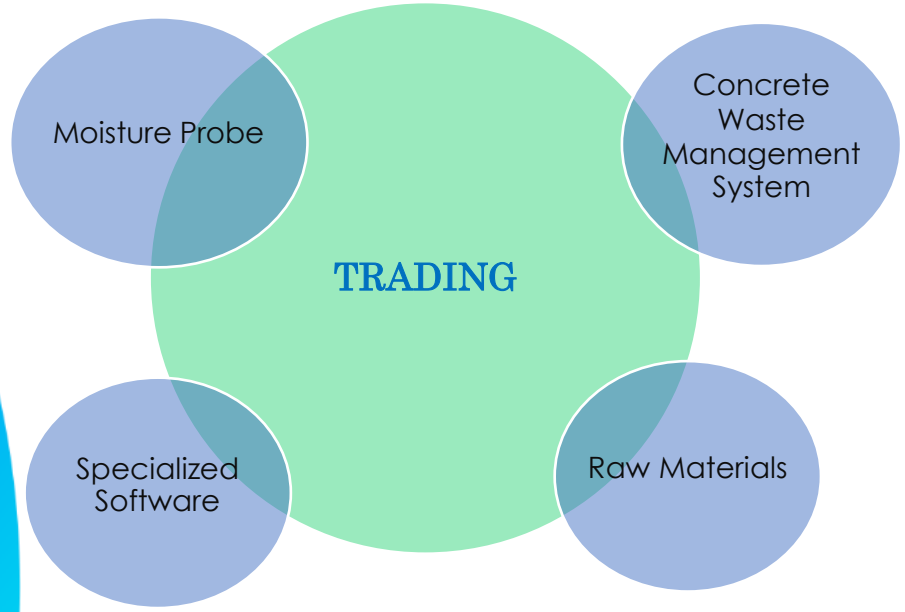

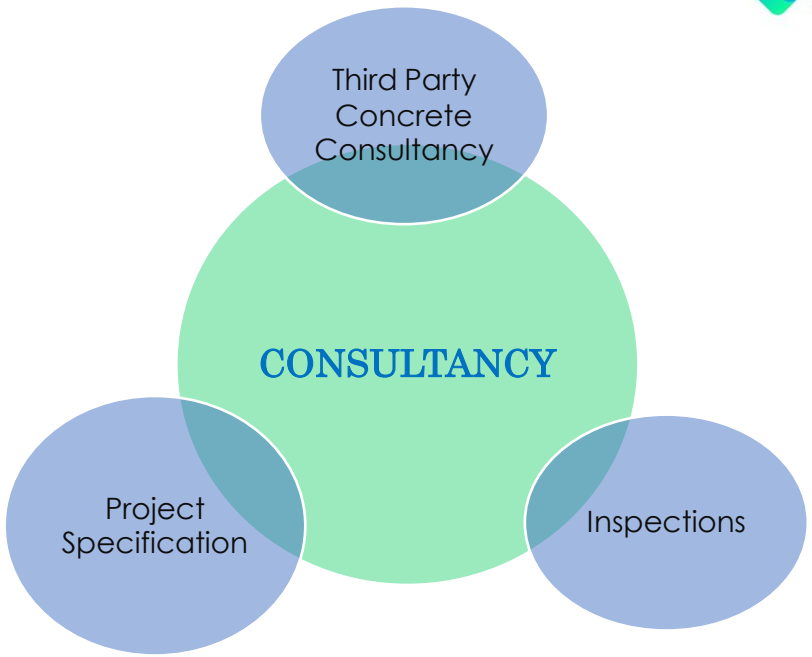

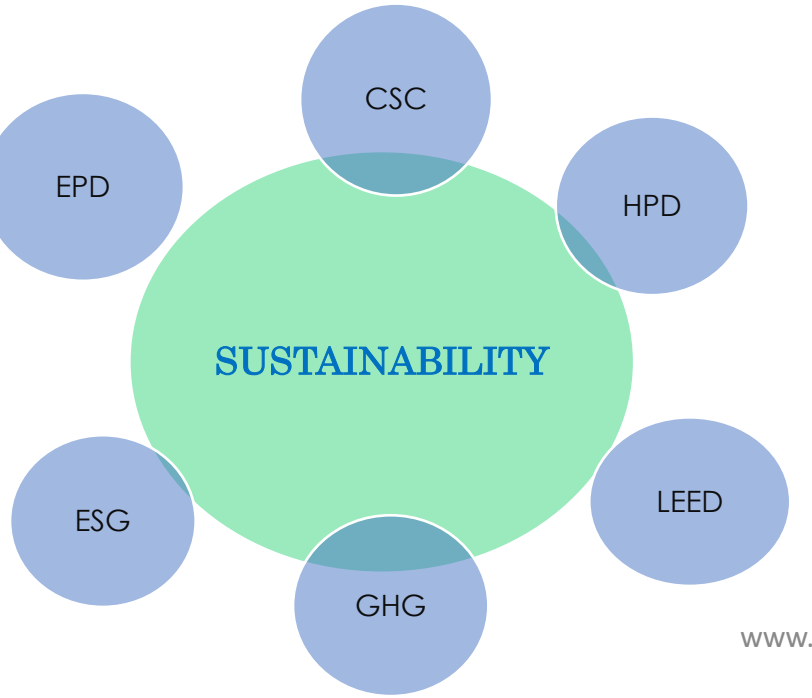

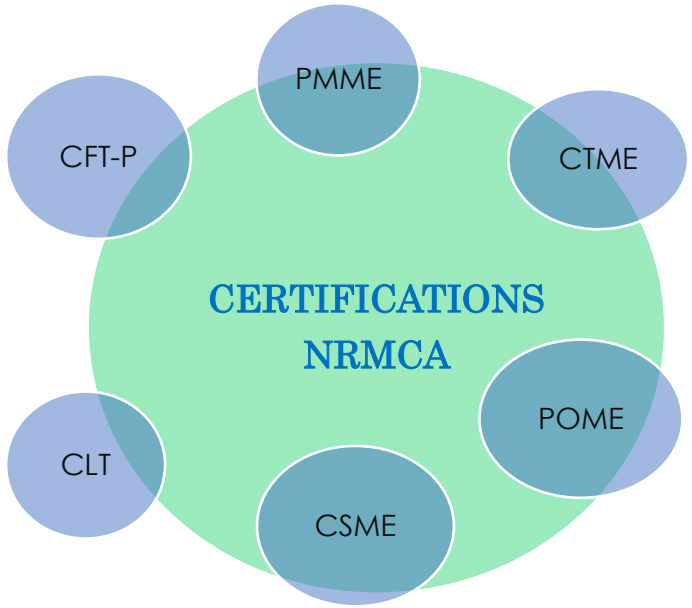

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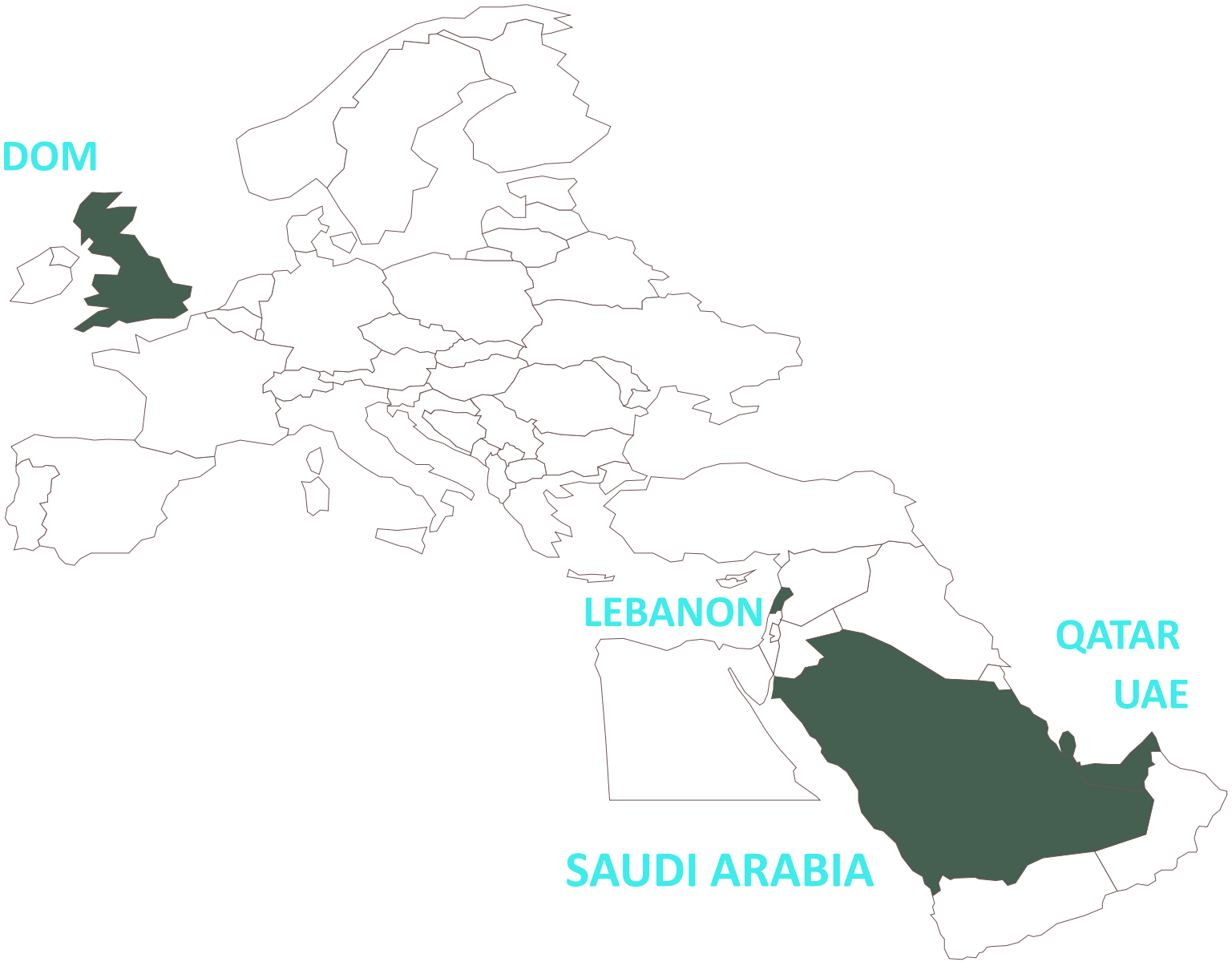
UNITED KINGDOM



Learning Objectives

1. Introduction to the Concrete Sustainability Council
2. Understanding how CSC certification works
3. Explanation of LEED v5's relevant credit structure
4. Demonstrating the correlation between CSC Certification and LEED v5 credits

Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC)

The Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC) is the global certification system for responsibly sourced concrete, cement, and aggregates.

- Independent organization founded under WBCSD
- Inspired by UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Global responsible sourcing system
- Supports sustainable concrete production
- Recognized in major green building systems
- Contributes directly to LEED v5 credits

What is CSC's mission?

CSC enables the concrete industry and its main suppliers – i.e. cement and aggregate industry – to communicate and demonstrate the responsible sourcing credentials of its products

Promote Sustainability

The CSC aims to advance sustainability in the concrete industry by promoting economically, environmentally, socially, and responsibly managed practices.

Credibility and Influence

It provides a certification system to showcase the sustainability performance of concrete and its value chain transparently. CSC is independent and the certification process review is performed by independent certification bodies.

Support Global Goals

The CSC aligns its mission with the U.N. SDGs, contributing to global efforts for a sustainable future. CSC is supported by competent and strong partners around the world, namely industry associations, certification bodies, concrete, cement and aggregates producers

Drive Industry Change

By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the CSC helps the concrete sector improve sustainability standards worldwide.

Regional System Operators

The Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC) Global is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Meanwhile, CSC is represented by Regional System Operators around the world. We typically collaborate with industry associations or key partners working across the entire concrete sector in specific countries or regions.

Austria

Belgium

Italy

Latin America

MENA

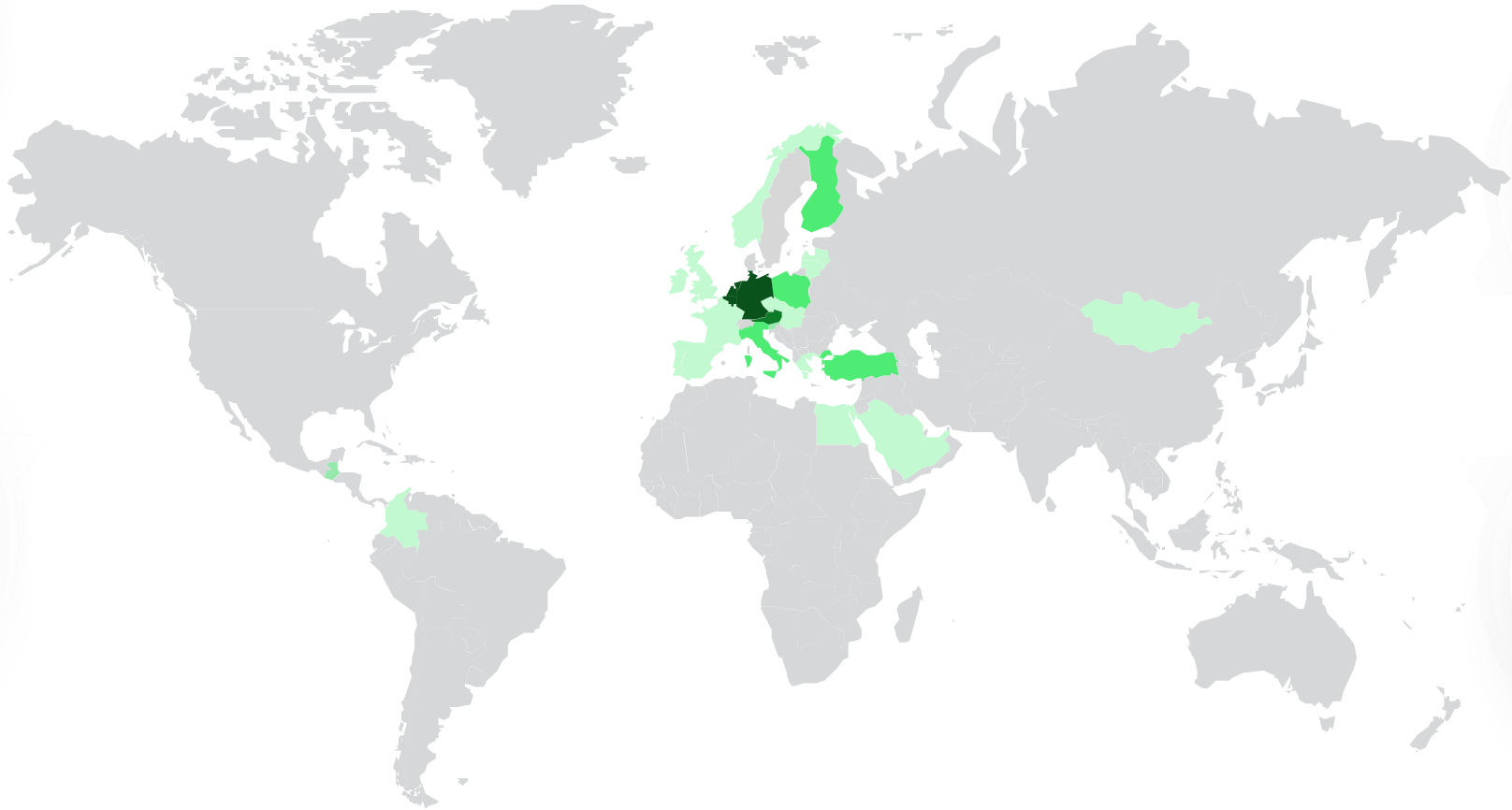
Germany

Netherlands

Turkiye

United States

26
Countries in
4 Continents



41
Members

+1608
Active
certificates

+880
Producers

2
add-on
Modules

4
Levels

CSC in the MENA Region

As of June 2026

10 active certificates:

- 9 RMC plants (KSA and UAE)
- 1 Cement Plant (Egypt)

1 inactive certificate:

- 1 Cement Plant (UAE)

In the Progress:

- 1 Cement Plant (KSA)
- 1 Cement Plant (UAE)
- 10 RMC Plants (KSA)
- 3 RMC Plants (UAE)

Why CSC Certification Matters

1. Demonstrates responsible sourcing practices
2. Strengthens environmental and social performance
3. Ensures supply chain transparency
4. Supports ESG and sustainability goals

What plants can be CSC-certified?

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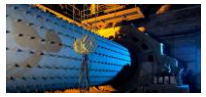
Aggregates (supplier certificate)

Natural & manufactured

Recycled

Marine

Integrated



Grinder & Blender

Cement (supplier certificate)

up to 15%

CSC suppliers certificate

up to 25%

Stationary Precast and RMX

Mobile

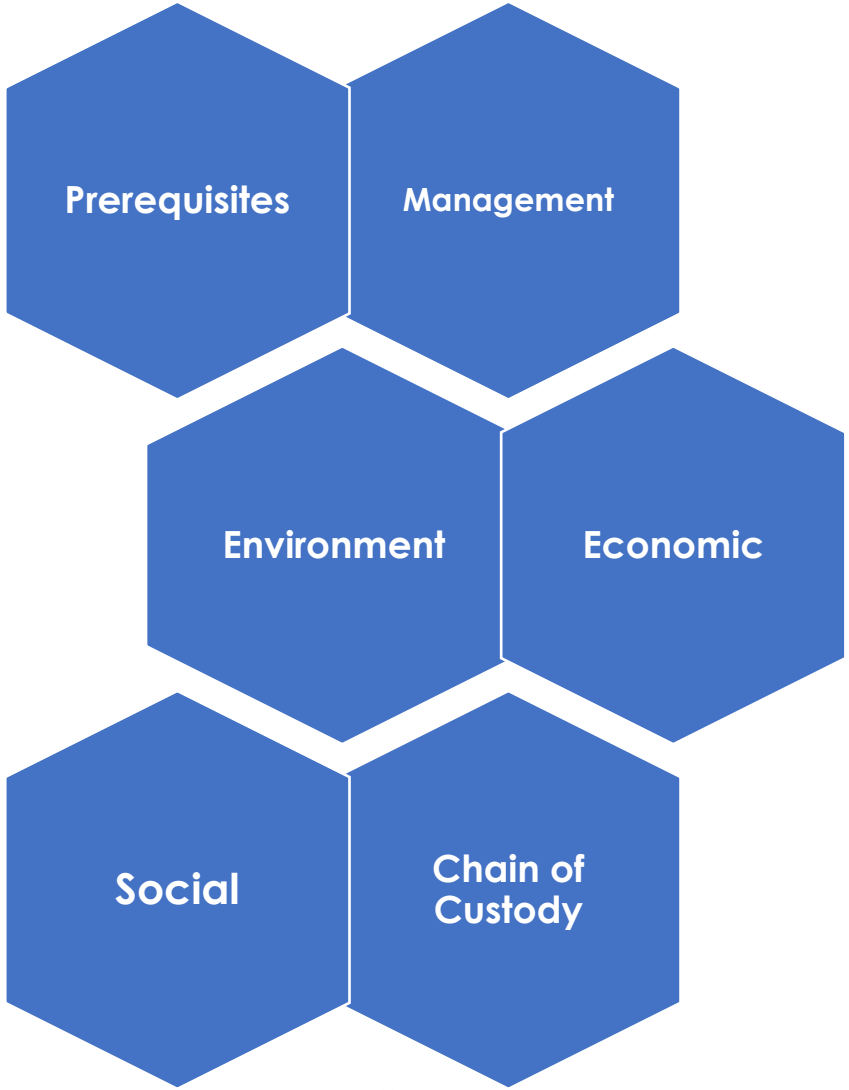
Concrete

CSC certificate

CO2 & R - modules

Scoring in green certifications

Understanding the CSC Certification Framework



Understanding the CSC Certification Framework

PREREQUISITES

P1 Ethical and Legal Compliance
P2 Human Rights
P3 Indigenous People Rights
P4 Environmental and Social Impact
P5 Traced Materials
P6 Vessels Evidence List

MANAGEMENT

M1 Sustainable Purchasing
M2 Environmental Management
M3 Quality Management
M4 Health & Safety Management
M5 Benchmark

ENVIRONMENTAL

E1 Life Cycle Impact
E2 Land Use
E3 Energy & Climate
E4 Air Quality
E5 Water
E6 Biodiversity
E7 Secondary Materials
E8 Transport
E9 Secondary Fuels

SOCIAL

S1 Local Community
S2 Health Product Information
S3 Occupational Health & Safety
S4 Labor Practices

ECONOMICS

B1 Local Economy
B2 Ethical Business
B3 Innovation
B4 Feedback Procedure

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

C1 Cement
C2 Aggregates
C3 Clinker
C4 Raw Aggregates Suppliers
C5 Ready Mix Concrete
C6 Steel Reinforcement
C7 Slag Supply to CSC Slag Grinder
C8 Cement supply to CSC Cement Blender

CSC R-Module

Rewards plants for the generation and use of recycled materials and acknowledges implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS). Products must contain at least 10% recycled material content.

Requirement	Description
R1	CSC certification Silver+
R2	Traced R-material supply
R3	R-material consumption
R4	Quality management (QMS, use of certified R-material)
R5	Concrete mix with min. R-material content ≥ 10%

Star Rating	R-Content
1 Star	10%
2 Stars	20%
3 Stars	40%
4 Stars	80%

As of January 2026, 193 certificates have been issued in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

CSC CO_2 Module

- Creates transparency around greenhouse gas emissions from concrete production and classifies CO_2-optimized concrete into CO_2 classes.
- Usable as a marketing tool to demonstrate verifiable reduction of embodied carbon.
- **It is not an EPD.**

Requirement	Description
L1	CSC certification Silver+
L2	75% coverage of the cement supply chain
L3	Monitoring of GHG emissions (criterion E3.02 fulfilled)

Link to LEED v5: 1 Star = 1 MAS point (Climate Health) • 2–4 Stars = 2 MAS points (Climate Health)

Recognition in Green Building Labels

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CSC's recognition by green building labels enhances the value of certified concrete in sustainable construction. It ensures alignment with global standards, promoting transparency and credibility in the concrete industry's sustainability efforts

LEED, United States
Recognition in "Social equity within the supply chain" pilot credit

BREEAM | UK, Europe
Recognition in the "Responsible sourcing of construction products" credit

Envision | North America, World
Recognition in certification system by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI)

DGNB, Germany and many countries
Recognition in the "Responsible sourcing" credit

ÖGNI | Austria, Europe
Recognition in the "Responsible sourcing" credit

MOSTADAM, Saudi Arabia
Recognition across the **Commercial, Residential, and Communities D+C manuals**, for responsible sourcing, recycled materials, and CO_2 reduction.

B.E.S.T | Turkey
Recognition in the "Ecological and Sustainable Design" residential certification system

CASA Guatemala, LATAM
Recognition in the "Materials" category

SGNI Switzerland
Recognition in the "Materials" category

CASA Colombia
Recognition in the "Materials" category

CSC Recognition in LEED

- Pilot Credit "Social Equity in the Supply Chain"
- First time ever for non-wood material labels to be recognized by LEED
- Fact sheet geared to coach LEED APs on how to score points with CSC certified concrete in LEED
- LEED v5 Ongoing-recognition in a Project Priority credit and in the multi-attribute scoring

LEED v5 Credit Categories

Total Possible Points: 110

Code	Category	Points
IP	Integrative Process	7
LT	Location & Transportation	15
SS	Sustainable Sites	11
WE	Water Efficiency	8–9
EA	Energy & Atmosphere	27–33
MR	Materials & Resources	18–21
EQ	Indoor Environmental Quality	11–13
PR	Project Priorities	10

CSC certification contributes primarily within Materials & Resources (MR) and Project Priorities (PR).

How CSC Contributes to LEED v5 Material Credits

- Supports Multi-Attribute Score (MAS) system
- Contribute to up to 5 LEED points under MR Credit 4
- Supports ecosystem, social, circular economy criteria
- CO_2 Module supports climate health scoring
- Enables higher LEED credit achievement

MAS Scoring in Detail

CSC Certification Scoring

CSC Certification Level	MAS Points	Criteria Areas Covered
CSC Bronze	1	Social Health & Equity
CSC Silver	2	Ecosystem Health + Social Health & Equity
CSC Gold / Platinum	3	Ecosystem + Social + Circular Economy
CSC CO_2 Module (1 Star)	1	Climate Health
CSC CO_2 Module (2–4 Stars)	2	Climate Health

EPD Scoring

EPD Type	MAS	Criteria Areas
Product-Specific Type III EPD	1	Climate Health
EPD Optimized (>20% GWP reduction)	3	Climate Health + Ecosystem Health
EPD Optimized (>40% GWP + 3 impacts)	5	All criteria areas

EPD vs. CSC: Two Documentation Pathways

EPDs - Product-Level Certification

Uses Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to measure:

- Global Warming Potential (GWP)
- Non-renewable energy use
- Acidification & ozone depletion
- 30+ environmental impacts

LEED v5 Credits: MRp2, MRc2, MRpc182

CSC - Plant-Level Certification

Evaluates holistically:

- Environmental impacts (uses EPDs for GWP)
- Social impacts (health, safety, labor)
- Ethical business practices
- Supply chain traceability

LEED v5 Credits: MRc4, MRpc181

LEED v5 Credits Supported by CSC Certification

Materials & Resources (MR)

MRp2	Quantify & Assess Embodied Carbon	**Required**
MRc2	Reduce Embodied Carbon	**Up to 6 pts**
MRc4	Building Product Selection & Procurement	**5 pts**
MRpc181	Multi-Attribute Structure & Enclosure	**2 pts**
MRpc182	Innovative Low-Carbon Concrete	**1 pt**

MRp2: Quantify & Assess Embodied Carbon

Intent: Quantify embodied carbon impacts of the structure, enclosure, and hardscape and assess the top sources

Requirements

- Report quantifying embodied carbon of structure, enclosure, and hardscape
- Identify the top three sources and strategies considered to reduce impacts

How Concrete Contributes

- Concrete is often in the top 3 sources of embodied carbon
- Low-carbon concrete mixes can directly support reduction strategy
- EPDs are widely available for concrete products
- WBLCA software includes concrete LCA data

MRc2: Reduce Embodied Carbon

Option 1: WBLCA

Whole-Building Life Cycle Assessment comparing design to baseline. Measures GWP, ozone, acidification, eutrophication, and more.

2-6 pts

Option 2: EPD Analysis

Project Average or Material-Type approach using Type III EPDs compared to industry benchmarks.

1-3 pts

Option 3: Construction

Track carbon emissions from construction activities for additional points.

+1 pt

GWP Reduction Scoring (Option 1)

GWP Reduction	Points
Meets baseline	2
10%	3
20%	4
30%	5
40%+	6

MRc4: Building Product Selection & Procurement

Intent: Promote procurement of transparently documented, sustainably optimized building products

Five Criteria Areas (Multi-Attribute Score)

Key Concrete Documentation Pathways

- EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) → Climate Health
- CSC Responsible Sourcing Certification → Ecosystem, Social, Circular
- Innovative Materials Documentation

CSC in Mostadam & Regional Projects

Mostadam Credit Recognition

Commercial D+C

- SA-07 Recycled Aggregates - Alternative Path 2
- MW-06 Life Cycle Assessment
- PMM-02 Sustainable Procurement - CSC Certificates and CO_2 Module recognized

Residential D+C

- MW-03 Recycled Materials
- Sustainable Procurement

Communities D+C

- SA-07 Sustainable Materials - Alternative Path 2
- MO-05 Sustainable Procurement

Projects in Pipeline

- King Salman International Airport (KSIA) - KSA
- Expo 2030 - KSA
- NHC - KSA
- Estidama - UAE
- Dubai Creek - UAE

Key Takeaways

1. Showcases commitment to responsible manufacturing practices and sets industry standards for sustainable concrete production
2. Directly supports LEED v5 credits (MRc4, MRpc181), Envision, and other green building rating systems
3. Contributes to responsible sourcing industry-wide and supports broader sustainability goals across the supply chain

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