nachhaltiges bauen
mit dem natureplus-Qualitätssiegel

the mark of sustainable construction
comprehensive. scientific. officially recognized.
The construction and accommodation sector consumes around 40% of worldwide resources and over 50% of the primary energy in Europe. On average we spend over 90% of our lives in enclosed buildings that are increasingly being built air-tight. Consequently, the quality of building products has a great influence on the environment and our health.

The international association natureplus developed the eco-label of the same name in order to offer consumers and construction professionals in Europe clear selection guidance for products in the building sector. It attests compliance with high standards of quality for all areas relevant to sustainability. The requirements for the natureplus label are displayed on the internet under www.natureplus.org.

Currently, the natureplus eco-label has been awarded to over 600 building products in Europe and is recognized across Europe by building specialists, consumers environmental organisations, government bodies and building evaluation systems.

The assessments to verify the requirements are conducted by accredited laboratories and assessors in line with recognized international standards. The natureplus eco-label is the only European environmental label for building products that is founded on strict scientific criteria and it is based on three key pillars:

1. **Klimaschutz**

   **Clean and efficient production:** The manufacture of the building products is environmentally-friendly and energy efficient. It helps to protect the climate, avoid CO₂ emissions and meet social responsibility standards. The products must be functional and recyclable.

2. **Wohngesundheit**

   **Protection of the environment and health:** Building products with the natureplus label do not adversely affect the environment or human health through harmful substances and ensure, in particular, healthy indoor living spaces.

3. **Nachhaltigkeit**

   **Sustainability of resources:** Only building products made from renewable resources or mineral raw materials that are available in abundance or secondary raw materials are permissible. The raw materials must stem from sustainable sources.
From 1st January 2018, the European natureplus institute SCE with limited liability will conduct the quality assurance for the natureplus eco-label. This association, under whose roof our long-term assessment partners have come together, is responsible for the relevant assessments worldwide and for the whole certification process from the initial commissioning to the award of the label.

The division between the label trusteeship (natureplus e. V.) and the award of the label is a precondition for the official state recognition of the natureplus eco-label. The natureplus institute SCE is pursuing a state accreditation, according to EN 17065, as an environmental label certification body. The full scope of our existing competencies and experience will remain intact as those involved with the natureplus Institute SCE are the same as those who were previously responsible for the natureplus assessments. These include Martin Duve and Felix Konrad as the responsible Board members and Claudia Schaum as project manager.

The licensees profit from diverse benefits. Through the organisational streamlining the assessment processes can be tailored according to requirements. The planned, product-specific, adaptation of the assessment cycle reduces the overall cost and effort involved. This enhancement of the label, the grouping of competences and the close networking of the partners guarantees a win-win situation for all participants.
Manufacturers can apply to the natureplus institute SCE for certification by providing exact data on the input components and a detailed description of the production process. The natureplus institute SCE will decide upon the eligibility of the product for admission to the certification procedure on the basis of the natureplus award guidelines and will define an assessment plan. On this basis, the manufacturer will commission the necessary assessments, which, as a rule, include the following factors:

- Inspection of the production site(s) and verification of the manufacturer’s information and sample-taking
- LCA of the production process and verification of compliance with threshold values, e.g. for primary energy consumption and CO₂ emissions
- Product-specific laboratory tests e.g. for VOC and formaldehyde emissions, heavy metals, biocides and contamination with harmful substances
- Analysis of the product life-cycle with regard to the environmentally-responsible extraction/harvesting of resources, social responsibility and possible recycling/re-use

If all requirements have been met, the natureplus institute SCE will award the natureplus eco-label and will issue a time-limited certificate. The assessment procedures must be repeated at pre-determined intervals.

The costs are based on the scope and complexity of the testing and can be found under [www.natureplus-institute.eu](http://www.natureplus-institute.eu). A licensing fee is charged for the use of the natureplus eco-label.
Since its foundation in 2001, natureplus e.V. has brought the interests of building professionals from the building materials industry, merchants, planners and the construction sector together with those of environmental and consumer protection agencies, trades unions and critical scientists from across Europe in order to promote sustainable building and accommodation. The association is structured in such a manner that the interests of the most important players within the building sector are combined in a participative, democratic fashion. This approach leads to decisions that can be supported by all the interested parties.

From 2018 natureplus e. V. will achieve official status as a public utility institute for consumer protection and expand its activities. The association will continue to define the fundamental concepts and criteria of the natureplus label. An independent Criteria Commission ensures the transparent and non-discriminatory determination of the requirements by taking into account the views of all interested parties. In addition, even more than in the past, the natureplus association will take part in scientific and political discussions and campaigns for the promotion of sustainable building materials across Europe. To this end, natureplus will count on the support of its active members and partners.

Through the publication of relevant information materials and educational events, architects and decision makers in particular, but also consumers and developers, will be kept informed and educated about sustainable building materials. Our product database offers detailed technical and environmental information on all of the certified products.
In addition to natureplus e. V., the founding members of the European association natureplus institute SCE with limited liability include some of our trusted partner institutes from Germany, Austria and Italy. The form of the European association (SCE) was chosen in order to stress this collaborative nature in the sustainability certifications.

The natureplus institute SCE has obtained a license from natureplus to award the natureplus label according to principles of impartiality and scientific rigour analogue to the requirements of EN 17065. The license includes the use of the natureplus® trademark and the execution of the following tasks:

a) Organisation and execution of product assessments for the natureplus eco-label in accordance with the requirements of the natureplus award guidelines
b) Conformity evaluations of products for the natureplus eco-label
c) Award of trademark licensing rights for the use of the natureplus® trademark by building materials manufacturers
d) Monitoring of contractual compliance in the use of the trademark by the manufacturers
Bremer Umweltinstitut GmbH
This is an independent, accredited analysis and research institute with many years of experience in the investigation and testing of harmful substances. The main focus of their work is the investigation and evaluation of harmful substances in interior air as well as the testing of textiles and leather, building products and other consumer articles.

eco-INSTITUT Germany GmbH
The eco-INSTITUT is an accredited laboratory for emissions testing and one of the most experienced German laboratories for the analysis of indoor spaces. For 30 years the institute has been promoting the issue of healthy room air and tests emissions from building products, floor coverings, furniture and other fixtures and fittings. Over 90 glass and stainless steel testing chambers are available in a highly modern, specialist laboratory with a floor space of around 500 m².

IBO GmbH
Since 1980, IBO GmbH has been researching the interactions between humans, buildings and the environment. This independent scientific association is the service provider for the IBO Association. These services include LCA’s for building materials, building constructions and building procedures, structural analysis and building simulations, building evaluations, monitoring and optimisation, the evaluation of harmful substances and research into factors to enhance comfort.

ICEA – Institute for Ethical and Environmental Certification
ICEA was founded in 2000 as an independent institute and provides a varied scope of services for the testing of food and non-food products. Around 300 auditors are currently affiliated to the ICEA network. The institute has a wide range of international expertise and is accredited in Italy, Canada, Japan, the USA and other countries. ICEA conducts numerous certifications and audits in the areas of social and environmental responsibility.

Indikator GmbH
This laboratory, with over 25 years of experience, is a specialist in the analysis of heavy metals using ICP-MS and x-ray fluorescence techniques. Specially adapted methods are used as appropriate for the individual sample preparation. A further area of expertise is the analysis of organic halogen as a cumulative parameter.
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Ökologische Dämmstoffe aus Holz und Zellulose.