

# The German Certification System for Sustainable Design

## prepared by the GeSBC

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### ABSTRACT

The German Sustainable Building Council (GeSBC) has been established in 2007. The mission of the GeSBC is to promote and support a fully sustainable design, realisation, usage and disposal of buildings. The aims pursued by the GeSBC are:

- Protection of resources
- Preservation of natural environment
- Health, comfort and well-being of inhabitants
- Protection of environment and public goods
- Preservation of values.

The main objective of the GeSBC is the configuration of a national certification system making the above-mentioned aims “protection targets” for the assessment. Contrary to other certification procedures focusing only on environmental aspects (such as ecology and energy) and individual measures, the GeSBC Certification clearly specifies the buildings quality in a comprehensive way including also life-cycle aspects.

The GeSBC certificate defines a number of six criteria groups necessary for full sustainability:

- Ecology
- Economy
- Social and cultural factors
- Technical quality
- Process quality
- Location quality.

All six groups contain various criteria for sustainability carefully defined by an interdisciplinary group of experts.

In order to achieve maximum acceptance, the certification system is highly transparent and coherent offering an open and innovation-friendly sustainable design process.

The GeSBC Certification is based on scientific approaches, continuously adjustable by the modifying specific parameters and transferable to other climate regions.

The GeSBC Certification will be applicable for all general building types such as residential housing, shopping centres, bridges, purification plant or existing buildings. The first fully operational version for new office buildings will be available in the beginning of 2009.