



THIS FACT SHEET PROVIDES THE MOST RELEVANT AND WIDELY USED CERTIFICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS, GREEN HOSPITALITY, AND SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS (ISO), IN ADDITION TO CARBON OFFSETTING STANDARDS. CERTIFICATION AND OFFSETTING CAN BE USED AS PART OF CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION POLICIES.

## GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATIONS

The building certifications were predominantly selected based on their popularity, in addition to the quality of their assessment guidelines. For example, BREEAM, LEED, and HQE use similar guidelines to assess the degree to which a building is sustainable. BREEAM and LEED, the certifications provided by the UK Green Building Council and the United States Green Building Council, respectively, are presently market leaders. A more comprehensive list of national certifications can be found below.



## GREEN HOSPITALITY CERTIFICATIONS

The green hospitality certifications were chosen based on their popularity. These certifications often cover not only hotels but also conference centres and other buildings which house events, including theatres and cultural buildings. A plethora of other micro-certifications exist, which can all be found in a more comprehensive list below.

### BREEAM

• Based in the United Kingdom,  
with national seats in:  
Spain, Netherlands, Germany,  
Norway, Sweden

### LEED

Based in USA

### HQE

Based in France

### DGNB

Based in Germany

### GBC

Based in Italy

### Green Key

e.g. Sofuset Conference Center

### Green Globe

e.g. Filharmonie Filderstadt

### Tripadvisor Green Leaders

Supported by the UNEP

### Green Tourism

Mainly in the UK/USA  
e.g. 15 Hatfields

[Comprehensive list of Green Building certifications](#)

[Comprehensive list of Green Hospitality certifications](#)

## SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS



While the previous sections covered buildings and single venues, these ISO certifications are intended to certify sustainable processes. ISO therefore takes on a more holistic approach.

### ISO 14001

**Environmental Management**  
e.g. Balélec Music festival,  
Glasgow Caledonian University

### ISO 20121

**Sustainable Events**  
e.g. Aeronef

### ISO 50001

**Sustainable Energy Management**  
e.g. University College Cork

## CULTURAL CERTIFICATIONS



Only a few certifications in the cultural field pertain to sustainability. Cultural actors tend to use specific certifications, often focusing on buildings or event management. The only cultural organisation which offers certifications is Julie's Bicycle, called Creative Green. More common is for an organisation to give out awards. COAL or A Greener Festival, for example, organise yearly awards to celebrate best practice example in terms of sustainability in the cultural field.

### A Greener Festival

**Sustainable Festivals**  
e.g. DGTL, Roskilde, Glastonbury

### Creative Green

**Creative Institutions**  
e.g. BRIT Awards, Royal Albert Hall

## CARBON OFFSET STANDARDS



The offsetting industry uses offsetting standards to verify whether the projects funded to capture CO<sub>2</sub> (e.g., planting trees) have an actual measurable impact. These standards are issued by the intermediaries listed below. A distinction should be made between two offsetting markets. Projects in the Voluntary emission reduction market are more common, as guidelines are looser and their carbon pricing lower. Projects following Certified Carbon credits, on the other hand, are Kyoto compliant, meaning that they are bound to follow the Paris Agreement and a stricter carbon pricing mechanism.

### Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)

• Voluntary emission reduction

### Gold Standard

• Voluntary emission reduction

### Plan Vivo

• Voluntary emission reduction  
• Funds smaller projects

### Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

• Kyoto compliant; uses Certified Carbon credits

### Green-e

• Voluntary emission reduction  
• United States of America

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