



DGNB

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen
German Sustainable Building Council



DGNB and IFC Announce Collaboration to Correlate the Scoring of their Green Building Standards

Endeavor to equate IFC's EDGE and DGNB certification marks the first time that international standards for sustainable building have been brought into alignment for the benefit of clients with certified projects.

DGNB and IFC are working on a methodology that equates DGNB's certification with a requisite level of resource efficiency achieved by EDGE certification. Projects that are awarded DGNB's certification will be able to achieve a comparable level of green status as IFC's EDGE certification and vice versa, enabling clients to better market their projects and access the advantages both certifications offer. The aim is to bring greater recognition to clients who are pioneers in the green building space, sparking competitive demand and the proliferation of green buildings around the world.

As a result of the collaboration, the DGNB and EDGE platforms will provide detailed information to interested clients as to how to achieve equivalencies for their projects. The objective is to foster a more holistic and quality-oriented design in our built environment.

Correlation Between DGNB and EDGE

To further define the methodology, DGNB and IFC will start a common pilot phase with dedicated clients and their design teams. An EDGE-certified project that has achieved a requisite average score across the efficiency categories of energy, water and embodied energy in materials and that has implemented DGNB design recommendations can be labeled as having achieved the equivalent of DGNB certification without need for further documentation.

A DGNB-certified project that has achieved a requisite score in the criteria of Lifecycle Assessment Primary Energy, Drinking Water Demand, and Waste Water Volume as well as Life Cycle Cost can be labeled as having achieved the equivalent of EDGE certification without further effort. In other words, entering the project details into the EDGE software and achieving the EDGE minimum standard are not required.

The DGNB/IFC Synergy: A Philosophy for Collaboration

There is a multitude of national and international-level green building certification systems around the world, each having its own methodology, compliance requirements, and tiers of performance. Performance-oriented alignment between certification systems offers clients additional opportunities for improving their projects and achieving enhanced brand recognition, which encourages certification uptake and fosters higher building quality. It is the hope of DGNB and IFC that the equivalency will be influential in encouraging clients as well as design teams to implement life cycle thinking in their work. The common goal is to encourage more designs for climate and culturally-sensible buildings around the world.

The DGNB/IFC synergy brings the best of German building know-how together with the convening power of the World Bank Group and its leverage and influence in global markets, particularly in the financial sector. DGNB will piggyback on IFC's green building progress and better tap into financial incentives for its clients, where incentives are in place. IFC will benefit from drawing those EDGE clients who wish to explore a broader set of environmental issues (e.g., internal air quality and sustainable sites) towards the DGNB standard. This sets the precedent for an inclusionary approach that is based on level of effort and value rather than finding an exact match in terms of percentages or points.

About DGNB and IFC's EDGE

The DGNB German Sustainable Building Council was founded in 2007 and has around 1,200 members, making it Europe's biggest network for sustainable building. The aim of DGNB is to promote sustainability in the construction and real estate industry and instill awareness of building sustainability among the broader population. DGNB is an independent non-profit organisation. Its certification system offers a planning and optimisation tool for evaluating sustainable buildings and urban districts. It was developed to help organisations enhance the tangible sustainability of construction projects. The DGNB system is based on the concept of holistic sustainability, placing equal emphasis on the environment, people and commercial viability. The DGNB Academy is an education and training platform that has already provided more than 3,000 people from over 30 countries with official qualifications in sustainable building.

An innovation of IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, EDGE provides market leaders with the opportunity to gain a competitive advantage by differentiating their products and adding value to the lives of their customers. EDGE brings speed, market intelligence and an investment focus to the next generation of green building certification in more than 130 countries. IFC created EDGE to respond to the need for a measurable and credible solution to prove the financial case for building green and unlock financial investment. EDGE includes a cloud-based platform to calculate the cost of going green and utility savings. The state-of-the-art engine has a sophisticated set of city-based climate and cost data, consumption patterns and algorithms for predicting the most accurate performance results.