JARGON BUSTER http://www.capem.eu

**JARGON BUSTER: GLOSSARY OF TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

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These terms are the CAPEM definitions.

**ABUNDANT MATERIALS**Material/product that is naturally abundant, sufficient for future needs at future consumption rates  
Examples:  
mined or scraped materials  
sand, gravel, soils, rock,  
Material applications:  
Ground modelling,  
walls,  
Brown Roofs,  
claddings,  
paving,  
fills,  
landscape  
Reservations:  
Use of synthetic, petrochemical, heavy metals, hazardous: treatments, binders, additives, etc.  
Exceptions/Exclusions:  
Landscape and biodiversity degradation  
No beneficial use of by-product or waste  
Waste generated and stored at ground level or deposited in landfill/landrise  
Examples:  
Metals: High energy or CO2 intense processing for use (aluminium especially)  
Limestone for cement production (lime preferred)  
Advantages:  
Some reuse potential at end of building life  
Return to land, landscape or agricultural use  
Potential substitutes:  
Recycled aggregates  
Recycled waste   
See: Abundant Material, Agricultural Co-Product, By-Products Or Waste, Healthy Material, Renewable Materials, Rapidly Renewable Material, Non-renewable material, VOC, CAP’EM  
(CAP’EM BRM ’10 & GreenSpec BRM ’11)

**AGRICULTURAL CO-PRODUCT, BY-PRODUCTS OR WASTE**The material/product uses agricultural co-product, by-products or waste?  
Co-Product e.g. milling waste not used for fuel,  
Bi-product e.g. unused stem of Straw, Hemp, flax,  
Waste: leaves, bark, roots, forest thinnings, husks, nut shell, coffee grounds, Animal bone, sewage,  
Under valued/under used: e.g. sheep’s wool, feather  
Material applications:   
construction panel,   
construction board,   
thermal insulation,  
bone used as aggregate in lightweight concrete blocks  
animal sewage made into LESA lightweight expanded sewage aggregate  
Reservations:  
Use of synthetic, petrochemical, hazardous: treatments, binders, etc.  
Exceptions/Exclusions:  
No beneficial use of by-product or waste  
Waste generated and stored at ground level or deposited in landfill/landrise  
No or poor Animal Husbandry Stewardship schemes in place  
Examples:  
Animal brain and nerve tissue  
Synthetic binders  
Hazardous treatments added for durability  
Hazardous as a waste product  
Potential substitutes:  
Recycled timber fibres from virgin solid wood, reclaimed or recycled wood  
Secondary aggregates, recycled aggregates,   
bio-plastics,  
Sewage,   
LECA Clay  
See: Abundant Material, Agricultural Co-Product, By-Products Or Waste, Healthy Material, Renewable Materials, Rapidly Renewable Material, Non-renewable material, VOC, CAPEM  
(GreenSpec BRM ’11)

**BIO-ECOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL/PRODUCT**(almost) inexhaustible natural raw materials  
no / minimum chemical additives  
no heavy negative environmental impact  
no negative health impact  
vegetable (agriculture/forestry)  
animal  
mineral  
no petrochemicals/synthetics contents  
See: CAP’EM, Eco-material  
(CAP’EM 2010)

**ECO-MATERIAL**“An ecological building material/product is a material/product with no heavy negative environmental impact and with no negative health impact.”  
This is the first time that experts from 5 European countries have come together to define what an eco-material actually is.  
See: CAP’EM, Bio-Ecological Construction Material/Product,  
(CAP’EM 2010)

**HEALTHY MATERIAL**  
Material/product with few or no unhealthy ingredients that can affect the users of buildings.  
Examples:   
Low allergy  
Low VOC and many variations,  
Low ozone depletion potential  
Low off gassing  
VOC Absorbent  
Hon-hazardous waste  
Moisture Absorbent moisture mass (prevent mould)  
Hyroscopic absobes moisture until conditions prevail to release moisture  
Moisture permeable permiting moisture through building fabric to avoid condensation  
Avoiding preservatives in timber in landscape particularly with food growing  
Material applications:   
Surface finishes, paints, stains, plasters, carpets, flooring, wall papers, fabrics, etc.  
Non-absorbent floor finishes (vomit (sick), urine (‘pee’), exceta (‘poo’), food, liquid)  
Adhesives (between layers of an assembly), binders (in recipies)  
Reservations:  
Natural wool can have skin irritation with some people  
Exceptions/Exclusions:  
Avoiding preservatives in timber in landscape particularly with food growing  
Advantages:  
Low to no off-gassing,   
Low to no VOC,   
Non-hazardous  
Potential Substitutes:  
Avoiding PVC  
Avoiding offgassing plastics  
Avoiding synthetic offgassing adhesives or binders  
Avoiding synthetic and natural solvent based coatings  
See: Abundent Material, Agricultural Co-Product, By-Products Or Waste, Healthy Material, Renewable Materials, Rapidly Renewable Material, Non-renewable material, VOC,  
(CAP’EM BRM ’10 & GreenSpec BRM ’10 – ’11)

**RAPIDLY RENEWABLE MATERIAL**The material/product is derived from a rapidly grown for harvesting, renewable resource   
the material/product is derived from a rapidly grown for harvesting renewable resource  
i.e. re-grows in less than 3 years  
Examples:  
Plant based,   
Grass, straw, hemp, flax, coconut husk, goat hair or sheep’s wool, feather  
Bamboo  
Animal or human hair, bird feather or down  
Material applications:   
construction panel,   
construction board,   
thermal insulation,   
natural solvent in paints and stains,  
Oils in natural protection  
Reservations:  
Use of synthetic, petrochemical, hazardous: treatments, binders, etc.  
Exceptions/Exclusions:  
No or poor Land Stewardship schemes in place e.g. FSC  
Examples:  
GM Genetically modified seed use for growing crop, reason: potential pollution of natural crop  
Cotton: reason: intensive processing to convert for use  
Advantages:  
Carbon sequestration in growth  
Reuse potential at end of building life  
Fuel potential at end of useful life  
Biodegradable to agricultural use  
Potential substitutes:  
Virgin timber  
See: Abundent Material, Agricultural Co-Product, By-Products Or Waste, Healthy Material, Renewable Materials, Rapidly Renewable Material, Non-renewable material, VOC, ASBP, Renewable Carbon  
(CAP’EM and GreenSpec BRM ’11 – ’12)

**RENEWABLE**Plant based materials are renewable (naturally replenished), (E.g. Trees 40-100 years,) or rapidly renewable (E.g. Straw one growing season)  
See: Renewable Materials, Rapidly Renewable Materials, Sustainable, Non-renewable,  
(GreenSpec BRM ’08 – ’11)

**RENEWABLE BUILDING (RB)**The name adopted by the BioRenewable Building Products Group, who challenged the BRE’s Green Guide to Specification for not being Green enough, for creating technical barriers to trade and for not being transparent.  
See: ASBP  
(GreenSpec BRM ’11)

**RENEWABLE CARBON**

**RENEWABLE MATERIALS:**Material/product derived from a grown for harvesting, renewable resource  
Examples:  
Timber and cellulose from trees,  
Marine shell, (particularly in Holland)  
Construction timber,   
Dense wood fibre,   
Cellulose fibre, paper,   
Building paper,  
Cardboard, Example: packaging  
Material applications:   
Thermal insulation,  
Acoustic insulation,  
Acoustic isolation,  
Underlayment,  
Breathing sheathing board,  
Reservations:  
Use of synthetic, petrochemical, hazardous: treatments, binders, impregnations,  
Examples:  
Fire retardant  
Preservative treatment against rot, insects, mould,  
Binder and loft maintenance,  
Exceptions/Exclusions:  
Stewardship schemes not in place or inadequate schemes, e.g. FSC  
very slow growing materials that support indigenous flora and fauna whilst growing, and help maintain water reserves often SSSI sites of special scientific interest  
e.g. Peat from peat bogs   
e.g. Timber from ancient forest,  
Advantages:  
Carbon sequestration in growth  
Reuse potential at end of building life  
Fuel potential at end of useful life  
Biodegradable to agricultural uses, Example: Compost, Soil Improvement, water retention,  
Potential substitutes:  
Recycled Plastic or plastic/timber used as timber substitute  
See: Abundent Material, Agricultural Co-Product, By-Products Or Waste, Healthy Material, Renewable Materials, Rapidly Renewable Material, Non-renewable material, VOC,  
(CAP’EM & GreenSpec BRM ’11)