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)