

## "Misunderstanding the Green Guide"

The Council for Aluminium in Building (CAB) has welcomed a joint statement by the Building Research Establishment Global (BRE Global) and the Construction Products Association (CPA) which clarifies how the BRE Green Guide should be used and more importantly how it should not be used.

CAB's official response reads:

"CAB is pleased to see that the recent joint statement by BRE Global and CPA addresses some of its major concerns regarding the lack of understanding of how the BRE Green Guide should be used and interpreted.

CAB has maintained a high profile programme to promote aluminium's sustainability credentials. This, together with discussions with BRE, has clearly helped lead to this clarification for material and product specifiers that emphasises above all else that the Green Guide is a 'guide' and not a tick box.

While the specific material and product tables in the Green Guide can be easily misinterpreted, not least that an 'A' rating is not the overriding requirement, the important comment to note is the relatively small effect that window performance has on a building's overall sustainability rating.

Although the BRE Green Guide methodology uses a cradle-to-grave approach, clear recognition is given to the equally valid cradle-to-cradle life cycle interpretation favoured by the aluminium sector. This latter approach has been adopted by the European Aluminium Association (EAA) in their forthcoming Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for aluminium windows."

The full statement by BRE Global/CPA can be found at:

<http://www.bre.co.uk/newsdetails.jsp?id=524> .

The latest CAB report 'Aluminium and Sustainability – a cradle-to-cradle approach has been very well received both in the UK and throughout Europe. It summarises the advances made by the global aluminium industry in reducing its environmental impact over the last century and details the current facts about aluminium extraction, refining, supply and recycling – a full cradle-to-cradle overview. The report is available in hard copy or as a PDF download from the CAB website at [www.c-a-b.org.uk](http://www.c-a-b.org.uk).

