Environmental Building Declaration Services

Athena works with leading-edge building owners in the latest form of transparency
The Athena Institute has pioneered environmental declarations for buildings to enable performance reporting and accountability in sustainable design. Our environmental building declaration (EBD) services are offered to building owners with an advanced sustainability agenda. An EBD complements green building certifications – and goes beyond them – by providing actual performance data. EBDS demonstrate a real commitment to verifiable sustainability.

The content of an environmental building declaration
An environmental building declaration is similar to an environmental product declaration (EPD) as a vehicle for transparent reporting of measured environmental performance data. An EBD typically documents cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment (LCA) results for the building, which includes environmental burdens due to manufacturing the construction materials, transporting them to the building site, operating HVAC and water systems over the life of the building, periodic repair and replacement of components, and demolition at end of building life. We develop our EBDS in accordance with the international whole-building LCA standard EN 15978. See EBD samples on our web site.

The process
We first require some information from the design team – construction documents and, if possible, estimates of operating energy and water consumption. We then calculate the full life cycle inventory for the building, backfilling project-specific data with upstream and downstream life cycle inventory data from other published sources. Next, we perform life cycle impact assessment to determine cradle-to-grave environmental burden due to the building in terms of global warming potential, ozone depletion, resource consumption, waste creation and other LCA metrics. All of our underlying data and methods conform to international LCA standards and North American impact assessment methods. The final product is a comprehensive environmental declaration (a report). We also produce a 1-page summary document with the key results, which can function as a brochure and a display poster suitable for the building lobby, and a short discussion paper explaining the contents and purpose of the EBD.

Getting started
Contact us for more information on EBDS, details on the process specific to your building, and pricing. Matt Bowick ● 613-808-5735 ● matt.bowick@athenasmi.org