

**Summary**

The DGNB System provides an objective description and assessment of the sustainability of buildings and urban districts. Quality is assessed comprehensively over the entire life cycle of the building. The DGNB Certification System can be applied internationally. The system is based on voluntarily outperforming the concepts that are common or usual today.

**Certifying body:** DGNB GmbH (a fully owned subsidiary of DGNB e.V. - the German Sustainable Building Council)

Applicable sectors					Award types				
General civil	Transport only	<b>Buildings</b>	Public realm	Community / precinct	<i>Design</i>	As built	Operation	Planning	Other

<b>Country</b>	Germany & International (adapted to Denmark, Switzerland, Austria and adaptation in process in Brazil, China, Russia)	<b>Sustainability criteria</b>	Building performance is assessed using around 40 different criteria, e.g. Thermal Comfort, Access for All and Noise Protection.
<b>Deployment &amp; developments</b>	<p>Developed by the German Sustainable Building Council (founded in 2007) in conjunction with the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building, Innovation and Development. The scheme was launched in 2008. Today, 13 different building types can be assessed under new build schemes, 4 building types for existing buildings, and entire districts can be certified (urban, commercial or industrial).</p> <p>There are 766 buildings and quarters which are either certified or registered under the scheme.</p>		<p>Special criteria are applied for the certification of urban districts, such as: Change in the City District Climate, Biodiversity and Interaction, Social and Functional Diversity, among others.</p> <p>Criteria fit within 6 categories: 1. Environmental quality 2. Economic quality 3. Sociocultural &amp; functional quality 4. Technical quality 5. Process quality 6. Site quality</p> <p>The first 4 quality categories have equal weight in the assessment and the site quality is not included in the total performance index.</p>
<b>Applicants</b>	Private investors, building owners, city and local authorities.	<b>Assessment: scoring, performance levels, evidence collection</b>	<p>Up to 10 evaluation points are awarded for each criterion.</p> <p>Site quality is considered separately. For urban districts, site quality is incorporated in all criteria.</p> <p>A certain basic level – the minimum performance index (MPI) – must be reached in all the result-relevant quality sections to be able to obtain the relevant certificate.</p> <p>If the total performance index (TPM) is <math>\geq 50\%</math>, &amp; the MPI is <math>\geq 35\%</math> the building will receive a bronze DGNB Certificate. For silver: TPM <math>\geq 65\%</math> &amp; MPI <math>\geq 50\%</math>. For gold: TPM <math>\geq 65\%</math> &amp; MPI <math>\geq 50\%</math></p> <p>There is the option of simple pre-certification in the planning (i.e. design) phase.</p> <p>In terms of evidence, auditors submit the required documentation. The extent and the time effort depends on the project, but usually it is between 2 and 5 binders with paper and plans. The time of collecting all needed information depends on the availability of the documents, the support of the design team and the status of the project</p>
<b>Government endorsement</b>	Developed with the support of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building, Innovation and Development. It is a voluntary system.		
<b>Support to applicants</b>	<p>DGNB trains DGNB auditors, who are responsible for documentation of required project information. They have all criteria available through access to the login area of the DGNB website. Additionally there is a printed manual for new office and administration, new residential and new urban districts which includes the description of each criterion regarding the target, the method and the evaluation.</p> <p>The DGNB Members can see all the criteria in the log-in area. Interested people can also ask for the criteria through an online form.</p>		
<b>Tailoring</b>	Depending on the scheme, some criteria are weighted differently. There is tailoring for various building uses or country-specific requirements.		

**Fee**

Example fees (for new offices and administration):

Applicants can register a project either for the pre-certificate (planning phase) or for the certificate (completed building).

Non-member pre-certification fees range from €4,000 (<4,000m<sup>2</sup>) to €13,000 (>80,000m<sup>2</sup>). Member fees receive a €2,000 discount.

Non-member certification fees range from €6,000 (<4,000m<sup>2</sup>) to €28,000 (>80,000m<sup>2</sup>). Member fees receive a €3,000 discount.

External auditing services to conduct the assessment are in addition to these costs and will vary.

Master Plan certification is €20,000.

As of Oct 2010, still current in Aug 2013.

**Case study**

Rated projects listed on website but detail currently not available.