



# CO<sub>2</sub> PERFORMANCE LADDER<sup>®</sup>

Working together to cut CO<sub>2</sub>



## The CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder

The CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is a sustainability standard that helps companies reduce their carbon emissions in company processes, projects and supply chain. The 'Ladder' stimulates energy efficiency, efficient use of materials and renewable energy. Companies who get themselves certified on the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder will experience this as an investment with immediate returns in terms of lower energy costs, material savings and innovation gain. But also, and possibly foremost, they gain advantage in public tenders.

### Procurement instrument

The CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is used as a Green Public Procurement Instrument by Government bodies and private organisations. With the use of the instrument in tenders they can stimulate organisations to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>. The level that a company has reached on the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is translated into a so-called 'award advantage'. The higher the level on the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder, the higher the advantage for the company in the tender.

### Five levels

The CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is a carbon management system based on the Capability Maturity Model (CMM). The CMM states that the execution of each project and the way in which processes are managed, are at a certain stage of maturity. The model distinguishes five maturity levels. A company can reach the next level through incremental improvements in its existing processes, and through innovations in technologies and methods

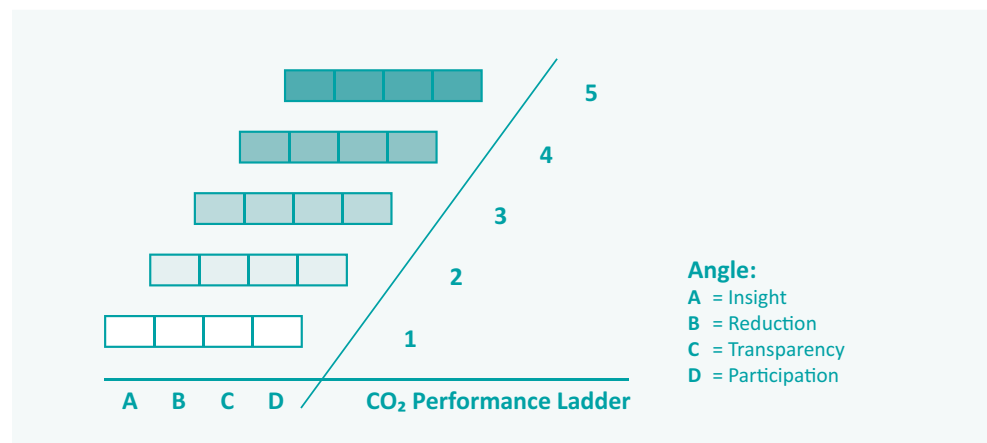


Figure 1. A schematic illustration of the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder

In the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder, A fixed set of requirements has been defined for these 5 levels, with which the CO<sub>2</sub> performance of a company and its projects must comply. These requirements are based on four themes:

- A) Insight: qualitative and quantitative insight in carbon footprint.
- B) Reduction: ambitious goals for carbon reduction.
- C) Transparency: frequent communication about A and B.
- D) Participation: participation in carbon reduction initiatives.

The position of a company on the ladder is determined by the highest level to which it meets the requirements. Compliance is annually checked by a independent Certifying Organisation.

## Why the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder?

- Certified companies have significant carbon reduction results in their own organisation, their supply chain and their projects.
- The ladder does not concentrate on its own criteria or rules, but on ambition, creativity and innovation.
- Over 700 organisations hold a certificate on the Ladder. The ladder is appropriate for all kinds of companies (small and large businesses) in different kind of sectors.
- The CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is used by over 50 local authorities and national governments in the Netherlands as a green procurement tool.
- It offers financial award advantage in tenders. Government bodies give up to 10% award advantage in multi-million euro projects.
- Public organisations that use the ladder in tenders stimulate industries in being more sustainable.
- The value of procurement with the CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is annually around 4 billion euro.
- It encourages structural dialogue between the public and private sector.
- It is a market based instrument, free of any subsidies.
- It uses and refers to international standards like the GHG-Protocol and ISO 14064.

### Organisation

The CO<sub>2</sub> Performance Ladder is owned by the independent Foundation for Climate-Friendly Procurement and Business, the SKAO. The foundation is responsible for all issues relating to the ladder: its use, its further development, certification administration and extending its scope to public and private organisations.



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