

## Recycled Content Declaration and Circular Economy

Circular economy and resource efficiency in the construction sector are in the focus of European policies and building assessment schemes, such as LEED or BREEAM, implemented indicators in this area as well.

Often people mistakenly think that one indicator, such as recycled content can lead to achieving a circular economy. But achieving zero waste and high resource efficiency requires more. When the whole society is working towards **zero waste** the recyclability of products and buildings at their end of life need to be considered, not just the secondary materials they contain. Higher **resource efficiency** means using less scarce resources and using more secondary materials/**waste that cannot be used elsewhere**, next to using the products and buildings as efficient and long as possible.

ROCKWOOL fully supports life cycle thinking and achieving a circular economy and believes:

- Recyclability, recycled content and scarcity of the primary raw materials of the product under study need to be analysed together in the context of moving towards a circular economy.
- The use of recycled material as such and a differentiation of recycled material into pre- and post-consumer material do not indicate if the use of the recycled material is more or less environmental beneficial.
- The system (for example closed loop) in which a recycled material exists and other reuse options of a recycled material need to be analysed in order to choose the application that supports the zero waste goal the most.
- Recycled content is one indicator, not a goal in itself and not an environmental impact such as climate change or resource scarcity.

The EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) for ROCKWOOL Scandinavia<sup>1</sup> lists a percentage of “secondary resources”, according to the definition in EN15804. That figure is based on production data from 2011.

RW-SC emphasizes resource efficiency across our organisation but also in our production. The use of secondary materials is one of many steps for how to achieve this.

Below is the annual average percentage for the use of recycled material. The updated number is from our production data from 2015 and calculated according to ISO 14021 (2015) “*Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)*”.

The declared figure shows a positive development for RW-SC use of recycled material compared to current EPD data<sup>2</sup>. In connection with the next revision of the RW-SC EPD the updated figure will be included.

### Figures for ROCKWOOL Scandinavia for the year 2015:

Non-scarce natural stone	approx. 77%
Recycled material	approx. 21.5%
Recyclability of RW	approx. 97%

<sup>1</sup> [http://epd-norge.no/getfile.php/EPDer/Byggevarer/Isolasjon/NEPD-00131E\\_rev1\\_ROCKWOOL-isolering%281%29.pdf](http://epd-norge.no/getfile.php/EPDer/Byggevarer/Isolasjon/NEPD-00131E_rev1_ROCKWOOL-isolering%281%29.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> NEPD 00131E rev1 justert 16.08.2016 ROCKWOOL® isolering, Page 3, Table «Product specification - Material input per functional unit