

For Contractors Looking to Develop an EPD: Access RC3, a Consortium of Experts



Environmental product declarations (EPDs) are transparent, third-party-verified reports that communicate the impacts of construction materials in terms of global warming potential, resource use, energy, and emissions.

The intent of EPDs is to help agencies understand the embodied environmental impacts of their construction projects and help reduce those impacts over time. [According to the FHWA](#)¹, “agencies can leverage the use of EPDs to support decision-making throughout the project delivery process. Agencies can request EPDs at material installation to establish and develop benchmarks for current designs and projects.” Given the governmental focus on environmental impacts, and specifically EPDs, the time has come for industry to quantify its impacts and deliver low-carbon concrete.

To produce an EPD, a contractor may need to work with a sustainability consultant. ACPA has partnered with [WAP Sustainability](#)² to provide discounted access to ACPA members for their EPD tool (called Theta EPD). The link to get started with WAP Sustainability is here: thetaepd.com/signup/acpa. While some contractors are choosing to

wait to develop an EPD until their agency requires it, it is highly encouraged that they begin collecting the necessary data now. Preparing in advance will enable contractors to deliver EPDs when the time comes. A spreadsheet for this purpose can be found at epddata.acpa.org.

An introductory video on EPDs can be found at: rc3.acpa.org/service/contractor-support.

ACPA is still committed to the importance of a life cycle approach to evaluating the environmental impacts of concrete infrastructure, but delivering cradle-to-gate EPDs is the first step in the quantification efforts for the full life cycle.

For questions or additional information, please contact Eric Ferrebee, P.E., Senior Director of Technical Services, American Concrete Pavement Association at eferrebee@acpa.org. To receive regular communications, please sign up for the RC3 distribution list: rc3.acpa.org.

1 https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_7/sustainable_epds.cfm

2 <https://wapsustainability.com/>

In anticipation of the LCTM program, the American Concrete Pavement Association, National Concrete Pavement Technology Center, and other qualified engineering professionals have formed the Reduced Carbon Concrete Consortium (RC3). The purpose of the Consortium is to help disseminate information on reducing carbon in the construction process and assist DOTs and other qualifying entities with the LCTM application. The Consortium is also available to provide technical assistance to DOTs and facilitate contractor preparedness with critical next steps such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).



rc3.acpa.org