



## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

"KEY ELEMENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: ENERGY, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

### **Sustainability Index to Civil Construction: A Brazilian Check-List Proposal**

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#### **Abstract**

In 2005 The Environmental Committee of SINDUSCON-RS, knowing the needs of building companies to search for compliance to environmental requirements, created a proposal for a national check-list which could be used as an evaluation of companies on environmental sustainability grounds.

At that time, there were approaches to the concept of Green Buildings, but the search was for something similar, yet Brazilian, with items with national significance and applicable to national reality and also accessible to as many companies as possible.

SINDUSCON-RS looked for a partnership with SENAI National Centre of Clean Technologies – CNTL, whose work focuses mostly on small and medium size companies and was then working on a project for online consulting for Cleaner Production and Waste Management in civil construction. The concepts and initiatives of CNTL and SINDUSCON were convergent and the partnership was created. The work started up at the beginning of 2007, with advice by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Initially, a reference review was done of the main index worldwide and of other existing works in this area. A comparative table of the most renowned indexes worldwide was created and, after that, the major items and the scoring method of each one were evaluated. Then the creation of the sustainability index developed by this group started. This work last about one year and a half, with periodical meetings until the software was finished, and then the basic check-list was created. In October of 2008, this national check list was showed at 80° ENIC under the title "Sustainability Index – A national Check-List Proposal".

The first version of the "Sustainability Index to civil construction– A national Check-List Proposal" will be open to everybody for about six months to test and in order to create a data bank with the answers of the chosen options and suggested options. After this period the first version will be revised and, if necessary, changes will be undertaken. Thereafter it will be officially released to be used as a tool in search of environmental suitability, or even as an evaluation and validation method that will bring a final result related to the sustainability of the assessed enterprise.

*Keywords: Sustainability, building a checklist, civil construction index.*

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