



## B1 Sustainable construction

### Icelandic state policy on sustainable construction, pilot projects and sustainable building certification

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**Organisation :** Government Construction Contracting Agency (GCCA)

**Short description:** An agency under the Ministry of Finance. It is responsible for state construction in the area of buildings for ministries and agencies. In that process its task is also to participate in or lead the development of new methods and technologies.

## Executive Summary of your Abstract

In 2007 the Ministry of Education in Iceland published the booklet: "Cultural Policy in the Field of Construction". The first steps taken to follow up on this policy are discussed in the presentation.

## Abstract

In 2007 the Ministry of Education in Iceland published the booklet: "Cultural Policy in the Field of Construction". This policy has the subtitle "Icelandic State Architectural Policy". The reason for using the term "cultural policy" is that it covers more than just architectural issues. The policy addresses issues like the cohabitation of man and nature and that buildings constructed in untouched land should not undermine the part of nature in the overall view. The policy also states that decisions made in the planning stage should be based on life cycle costing and not just the initial cost. Sustainability and environmental perspectives require new approaches in the field of planning, designing and constructing. The state should be a leader regarding those issues and set ambitious goals. An overview of the sustainable construction projects GCCA is currently in the process of developing is given in the presentation along with what sustainable construction methods are being incorporated. It also touches on the combined use of BIM (Building Information Modeling) and BREEAM (British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) for getting a Sustainable Building Certification. Currently GCCA has 3 buildings registered for BREEAM certification. Obstacles in incorporating sustainability into the tenders for construction will also be discussed.

## **Resumé**

Oskar Valdimarsson, MSc in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta, Canada. Worked for construction companies in Iceland and the USA for 15 years before becoming the Chief Executive of the Government Construction Contracting Agency in Iceland.

**Recommended reading:** N/A

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**Conference organisers:** ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the City of Reykjavik

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