

GETTING STARTED WITH EPDs



EPDs & Environmental Compliance

With the passing of federal government's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, concrete pipe producers are facing new environmental regulations that are putting current and future public and private projects at risk.

What is an EPD?

An Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) resembles a food nutrition label but instead informs consumers about the greenhouse gases emitted during a product's production. Through its various agencies (EPA, FHWA, GSA, FEMA, and DOD), the federal government is actively promoting EPDs. Several states have also independently initiated EPD requirements. These requirements can differ significantly across states: some mandate plant-specific EPDs, while others may consider adopting a national average as a more feasible standard. This variability underscores the need for flexibility and adaptability in the implementation of EPD standards.

The ACPA's Approach

Guided by the SREL Committee, the ACPA is adopting an industry-wide strategy to develop both regional and national EPDs. Overseeing the creation of these EPDs is WAP Sustainability Consulting who is utilizing data collected from numerous members nationwide. Once the data is compiled and the EPDs are finalized, the ACPA will leverage this information to inform, educate, and guide regulatory bodies on regulations that are yet to be established.

WAP Sustainability Consulting



wapconsulting.com

WAP is a 3rd party environmental consultant specializing in EPDs and LCAs for the concrete industry.

The ACPA encourages all members wanting to create their own EPD to participate in our contracted program with WAP. This ensures consistency of numbers, methodology, and will expedite your the process.

KEY TERMS

EPD - Environmental Product Declaration

A report indicating what a product is made of and how it impacts the environment throughout its life cycle.

PCR - Product Category Rule

A set of specific set of guidelines that determine what data to gather and how to evaluate it for the product's LCA.

LCA - Life Cycle Analysis

A methodology for assessing environmental impacts associated with a product's life-cycle.

GWP - Global Warming Potential

This is a measure of a product's greenhouse effect based on gases produced.

Section 60116

Section in Inflation Reduction Act directing EPA to develop a labeling program for construction materials used in infrastructure projects.

MEMBER RESOURCES

SREL Committee

To ensure the ACPA is actively monitoring the regulatory situation, the Sustainability, Resilience, and Education Leadership Committee was formed.

Members Only Website

ACPA members can access the members only portal to find education and other resources.

Visit: members.concretepipe.org/SREL

Creating the EPD

Developing the EPD is a comprehensive process requiring gathering member data from across the country. Collectively engaging in the process is significantly more cost effective and accurate approach and allows for EPDs to be created at the national and local levels.

Collecting Data

On behalf of the ACPA, WAP is collecting data from randomly generated member plants from around the country based on requirements and boundaries. These surveys ask for plant-specific data regarding the various inputs that go into their products. This includes inputs such as the power used to make the products, transportation of raw materials, and the emissions created by mining the raw materials. The gathered data is then aggregated to create the necessary documentation eventually needed to create the regional and national EPDs.

Packaging the Data

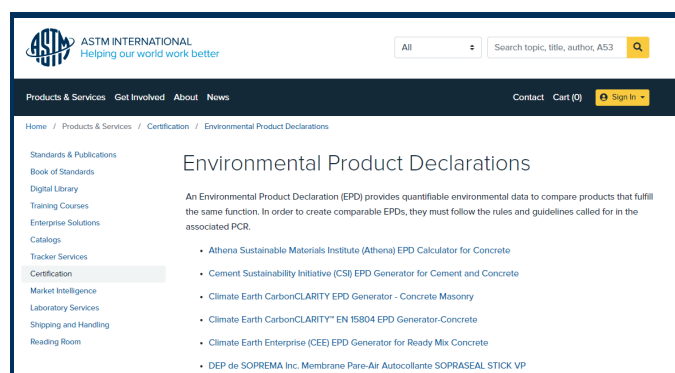
The data submitted by individual producers is sent directly to WAP, where it is compiled at both regional and national levels to calculate their respective average values. This aggregated information is then utilized to ascertain the GWPs required for the development of both local and national EPDs.

NOTE: Neither the ACPA or other producers see the information submitted by individual plants.

WHY EPDs MATTER TO YOU

It's not a matter of if you will be affected, but when.

EPDs are not a fad or a trend that are going away anytime soon, and if your business is not prepared to address them, you will see your opportunities to compete for public and private contracts increasingly eliminated over time. Already major public companies like Amazon and Meta are starting to require EPDs on their projects, as are projects put out to bid by national and state governments. Fortunately, the ACPA is actively engaged in the EPD creation process, giving our members the momentum and advantage to move forward. Members are encouraged to engage in both the process and with the ACPA to ensure the creation of the most accurate and viable EPDs.



EPD Creation

Once the GWPs are determined, WAP will draft an EPD for verification by ASTM. Upon approval of the EPD, it will then be posted on ASTM's EPD Portal. The EPD will reside and can be referenced on the ASTM site for approximately five years when it will then be reviewed, updated, and resubmitted.

ASTM's EPD listings: concretepipe.org/astm-EPD

EPD Regions

The national average EPD will be broken down into four regions. These regions were determined primarily based off the availability of raw materials needed to make concrete pipe and box culverts. Regional EPDs can be used by all members in their given geographic location.

REGIONS

- West
- Rocky Mountain North
- North Central
- Major Region

