



Kick-off for the European LCBI certification combining Low-Carbon New Buildings & Renovation

The Low Carbon Building Initiative (LCBI), a public-interest program driving the development of low-carbon buildings across Europe, announces for 2026 the extension of its low-carbon performance certification to renovation projects. This new certification will use a unified framework with the new construction methodology already in place, tailored to national regulations across Europe.

MIPIM, Cannes, March 10, 2026. Since the launch of the LCBI certification in 2024 for new construction, market demand has also strongly grown for renovation – from investors, developers, and designers seeking reliable, verified, and comparable carbon data for the rehabilitation and transformation of existing buildings.

Real estate projects increasingly tend to combine both new construction and renovation, while building uses themselves continue to evolve. Across Europe, property stakeholders are looking for effective tools to measure and manage the decarbonization of their entire portfolios – encompassing all asset types and uses – to meet rising climate expectations.

Operated by the French BBCA Association and leading European real estate partners, LCBI builds on the experience of LCBI certification for new construction already deployed in Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK, and awarded to major investors such as Generali Real Estate and Covivio, as well as on the deep expertise gained in France with the BBCA certification. Today, more than 5.8 million square meters are under review or already certified, including one third in renovation projects (BBCA Renovation certification existing since 2018).

The future certification will initially apply to three main asset classes: **office buildings, collective housing, and hotels.**

“It has become absolutely crucial to take into account the complexity of new building projects. The line between renovation and new construction is never as clear as it might seem. It is a major step ahead for both LCBI and BBCA, to update to new market constraints, to tackle renovation at the European level. Carbon is everywhere and we are to keep on lowering its presence in every part of the game.”

Stanislas Pottier, BBCA & LCBI President



Its methodological framework is based on key guiding principles:

- ✓ Comprehensive life-cycle analysis, covering transformation, demolition, construction, and operation phases.
- ✓ Alignment of accounting methods between new and renovated buildings.
- ✓ Compatibility with European and national regulations.
- ✓ A quantified carbon footprint result expressed in kg CO₂ eq/m², valid for any location in Europe.
- ✓ A “no-renovation” reference scenario to assess avoided emissions.
- ✓ Integration within sustainable finance frameworks, including compliance with the EU taxonomy and alignment with ESRS and other climate reporting practices.
- ✓ The framework will deal with embodied carbon, operational carbon and carbon storage on a whole Life Cycle basis
- ✓ Carbon emission thresholds that must not be exceeded to earn the certification, rewarding buildings with exemplary low-carbon performance.
- ✓ The certification will first be awarded to real estate assets located in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom.

Publication of the methodology is expected by the end of 2026. This development will be aligned with a revision of the BBKA New Construction and BBKA Renovation methods in France, aiming to ensure full transparency and clarity of carbon measurement results across France and Europe, while simplifying reporting and communication for all decision-makers.

About LCBI

The Low Carbon Building Initiative was launched in 2022 by major players in the real estate sector (Generali Real Estate, Covivio, BPI Real Estate, BNP Paribas Real Estate, Bouygues Immobilier, WO2, Icamap, NSI, Ivanhoé Cambridge and AXA IM Alts) and BBKA (the Association for the Development of Low-Carbon Buildings). Its aim is to develop the low-carbon certification of real estate projects in Europe in order to hasten the decarbonisation of the sector. Based on key European standards and benchmarks, the LCBI methodology serves to standardise the practice of life-cycle analysis (ACV) throughout Europe. The LCBI certification, audited by Bureau Veritas and CERTIVEA, takes account of the complete life cycle of buildings, and measures the carbon footprint as well as the comprehensiveness of the ACV on three levels: grey carbon (emissions associated with construction) measured in kgCO₂e/sq.m over 50 ans, carbon from use (linked to consumption and energy sources) measured in kgCO₂e/sq.m./year, and the measurement of biogenic carbon storage contained in the building measured in kgCO₂e/sq.m. The certification has three performance levels: Standard, Performance and Excellence.

About BBKA

Founded in 2015, BBKA—The Association for the Development of Low-Carbon Buildings—works to combat climate change through the decarbonization of buildings and property in France and across Europe. Recognized as a charitable organization, it plays a key role in environmental protection. Its members—over a hundred leading industry players including developers, architects, engineers, and investors—are pioneers of low-carbon real estate. BBKA runs its eponymous low-carbon building and neighborhood certification and organized the first Low Carbon Real Estate Show (Sibca), which recently held its 4th edition at the Grand Palais in Paris.