

impact categories aligned with LCA. I have just been given a quick tour of the tools our team has designed and delivered to give me a little deeper appreciation on functionality. The key outcome of this project is to provide a third-party verification to ensure independence, rigor and robustness. As the chosen expert service provider, it has been our responsibility to independently review and undertake assurance of the tool. This, in turn, will give the client an increased confidence when sharing their product assessment reviews with their stakeholders and a competitive edge in a busy global end market. The client and their consultant had to first demonstrate the tool. Then we had a brainstorming session to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and agreed on a delivery strategy. The timetable has been affected by team members absence – typical office reality. During the course of the project to date, I have learnt what an assurance review consists of, the different levels of assurance which can be provided through verification, and the need for Environmental claims following standards (ie ISO 14021: Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)).

Our Responsible Sourcing business has existing projects assessing construction products manufacturers this week, so I have been working on evidence review (preparing gap analysis) which will lead into a report and the assignment of credits that will determine their performance level – I think they are aiming at Very Good to outcompete

their peers. Next month, I will be taking my project through to internal technical verification, once the client addresses any clarifications/missing evidence. Each audit presents its own individual challenges and learnings when interpreting Standards requirements within individual client's operations and location (last month we had our first certificate issued in UAE and I am getting a project on the way in Spain).

Communicating with clients on data and information is certainly top focus as progress can only be made if clients submit appropriate evidence – that can be technical in nature, such as lack of evidence, or managing client expectations of possible credits, or development of communication strategies to account for the language capabilities of each party.

Being a part of the sustainability team in Intertek is a new journey and already rewarding, every day presents interesting opportunities to develop professionally within a growing industry under the guidance of, and collaboration with experienced professionals.

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