

## Pim van Rijsbergen – BCI Gebouw

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### From Coca-Cola to DigiDeals: our day at the NMD symposium

It was another inspiring day at the NMD Symposium organized by the Stichting Nationale Milieudatabase, this year held at the beautiful Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden. Representing BCI Gebouw, we attended with Mike van Vliet, Thijs de Goede and Pim van Rijsbergen. A day full of interesting stories, inspiring people, and above all, many new insights and once again the confirmation that circularity and a whole lot of abbreviations go hand in hand.

#### From Coca-Cola to the NMD

The program took us from the history of environmental data to the future of the NMD system. For example, we learned that the very first LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) was conducted by Coca-Cola in 1969 to investigate the environmental effects of packaging. That study took two years, a great perspective on how efficiently we can now process and calculate environmental data.

That first study laid the foundation for what would later become environmental data worldwide, and ultimately the Dutch NMD system: a uniform database for the environmental performance of building materials. Today, the NMD contains more than 5,000 products and continues to evolve, with a focus on expanding category 3 environmental declarations, the NMD Academy, and MPG calculations for renovation and transformation.

For BCI Gebouw, this is an important and promising step. The current assessment method for renovation has proven to be time-consuming and therefore difficult to apply in practice. The newly announced, unambiguous method should provide more clarity and ease of use when calculating environmental performance in renovation projects. The further development and translation into a practical tool is being carried out in collaboration with the NMD, which, together with the tool providers, determines the planning and feasibility. As soon as more details are known, we will carefully integrate the new method into BCI, so that our users can soon calculate efficiently and reliably with up-to-date environmental data.

#### European Direction and the Role of BCI

The future of environmental data is inextricably linked to digitalization. The revised European Construction Products Regulation (CPR) strongly focuses on sustainability and transparency, with initiatives such as the Digital Product Passport (DPP). This passport will contain crucial product information, from CO<sub>2</sub> impact to lifespan and reuse potential.

Europe is also working on a Whole Life Carbon approach, where the WLC-GWP (Whole Life Cycle – Global Warming Potential) will become the new standard for both material-related and operational emissions.

At BCI Gebouw, we closely follow these developments and ensure that these new standards are integrated into our platform in an accessible and practical way. This is how we translate complex regulations into usable tools for designers, consultants, and developers.

### **Building Digital Sustainability Together**

Finally, the DigiDeals of NMD and DigiGo were discussed: four agreements to exchange environmental data in construction better and more consistently, for example via the ETIM standard, international EPDs within the MPG, and controlled access to product data.

Here too, BCI Gebouw plays an active role: we participate in two DigiDeals working groups and help to make this information available in a good and accessible way for our users. In this way, we help the construction sector step by step towards a fully digital and sustainable future.