WEB RESOURCE FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PRACTISE IN JOHANNESBURG
1st HOLCIM FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION SEPTEMBER 2004

OBJECTIVE
The aim of the poster is to demonstrate a simple but comprehensive, interactive web-based tool that assesses Johannesburg’s housing delivery with regard to sustainability issues.

CONTEXT
Despite the growing awareness of the urgent need for sustainable development, there is a large number of stakeholders who do not understand this need. Of those who understand the need, a large proportion lacks the competence to achieve sustainability in their respective roles in housing practice.

TARGET USERS
Various users from the public and private sectors as well as community members and other members of civil society can utilize the resource.

These include:
- Local and provincial government officials
- Community members
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Developers
- Financials
- Consultants in housing and related fields
- Any other housing practitioners and interested groups

KEY ATTRIBUTES AND COMPONENTS
The web tool is able to display different scenarios from different backgrounds and at different levels of sustainability of the results being considered. This tool is able to inform the various attributes of the results. The following attributes have therefore been built-in to it:

- Systematic assessment
- Interactivity
- Comprehensive
- User-friendly
- Accessibility is the whole target group
- Reliability and usability

The resource is also adapted to address the 4 main components:

1. An assessment matrix that identifies key sustainability components and criteria used to evaluate the sustainability of the projects.
2. Benchmarking the criteria for each component
3. Evaluates projects against the criteria
4. Provides different rating scenarios for decision making

INTERACTIVITY
The user is able to select the progression from the beginning of the tool to the report and the results are developed at the end. Each screen has various icons that can be clicked on depending on the stage of the project and the needs of the user.

Examples of interactivity:

- The first screen of the evaluation process requires the user to fill in the information on the project. If the user fills in the information on the project, the tool will then fill in the final result of the user. The total score in the tool is then filled in with the user's score in the final result.
- Evaluation of the project is carried out by the tool. The user can then evaluate the tool and see the results of the evaluation.
- A user who scores 2 out of 5 in the tool will see the result of the evaluation.
- A user who scores 4 out of 5 in the tool will see the result of the evaluation.

COMPREHENSIVENESS
The tool provides a web portal of sustainability issues relevant to the City of Johannesburg.

Some resources have been developed to further clarify what the components and criteria are in order to achieve the solutions. The user can see the information and then evaluate and then run the simulation.

Cases with urban case studies have been developed to help identify the urban case studies that can be run in collaboration with the CCU.

The web tool uses a combination of different components in order to develop the tool. The component can be used to evaluate the tool under different scenarios.

USER FRIENDLINESS
The simplicity of the process followed and the language used makes the resource user friendly.

The guide and help files are also used to assist the user to know that any difficulty is encountered anywhere in the process. The interactivity also helps in making the resource user friendly.

RELIABILITY AND SECURITY
Users are able to access and use it through the internet but are not allowed to change the functionality of the resource.

In order to facilitate security, the first screen requires a user name and password from registered users. Unregistered users can register by contacting the administrator of the contact details provided on the login screen.

The security system allows the administrator to monitor who uses the system and to identify any unauthorized activity.