

BEES: A Popular Product Selection Tool that Integrates LCA and LCC

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The BEES (**B**uilding for **E**nvironmental and **E**conomic Sustainability) software brings to your fingertips a popular technique for selecting cost-effective, environmentally-preferable building products. The tool integrates life-cycle assessment and life-cycle costing in a multi-attribute framework that scores products based on the decisionmaker's values. Version 3.0 of the Windows-based decision support software, aimed at designers, builders, and product manufacturers, includes life-cycle data for nearly 200 building products. The free tool has attracted over 9000 users in more than 80 countries.

BEES is supported in part by the U.S. EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program, which encourages Executive agencies to reduce the environmental burdens associated with the \$200 billion in products and services they buy each year, including building products. In addition, BEES is being required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of a new "USDA Certified Biobased Product" labelling program.