

The SEEDA Regional Sustainability Checklist – Tool Summary

Authors

Name	Organisation	Origin
-	SEEDA	Gov
-	BRE	Industry
-	WWF	NGO

Info

Date:
2003

Place of origin:
London, UK

Homepage:
<http://southeast.sustainability-checklist.co.uk/> (the original)
<http://www.sdchecklist-northwest.org.uk/>
<http://www.checklistsouthwest.co.uk/>

References:

- The South East Sustainability Checklist. Available at: <http://southeast.sustainability-checklist.co.uk/checklist> [Accessed December 9, 2009].
- BRE Global, WWF & ODPM, 2006. A Regional Sustainability Checklist for Developments. Available at: http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/regsust_checklist.pdf.
- South East England Regional Assembly et al., 2008. *Regional Sustainability Framework*, Guilford, UK: South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA Ltd).

Latest use:
2010

Download:
<http://southeast.sustainability-checklist.co.uk/>

Description

“The Checklist is a new, easy-to-use online tool that has been developed by SEEDA and BRE. Devised specifically to guide the design of new developments by making sense of current policy, the Checklist highlights best practice, complementing Ecohomes and the new Code for Sustainable Homes.

The Checklist covers regionally specific sustainability and planning issues, emphasising those of higher priority. It can also be adapted to reflect locally significant concerns. Ecohomes/BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes assess the sustainability of designs for individual new homes and buildings. The Checklist complements these by looking at issues relevant to the overall development scale, helping developers, local authorities and other interested parties to deliver sustainable communities.

The tool identifies a range of sustainability issues covered in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East enabling users to assess to what extent a design proposal will deliver on each issue.”

“There is broad agreement that new developments need to contribute to the creation of sustainable communities. Tools such as Ecohomes / BREEAM / forthcoming Code for Sustainable Homes assess the sustainability of designs for individual new homes and

buildings. This Checklist works at the next scale; helping developers, local authorities and other interested parties to assess how sustainable designs are for new housing and mixed use developments.

The Checklist is designed primarily for use within the development design and planning application process to help new developments and refurbishments to contribute to more sustainable communities. “

“The Checklist gives the developer an idea of the scope of issues that need to be addressed in the formulation and design of the planning proposal, and provides the information about minimum standards for each issue.

Once completed, the Checklist provides an assessment tool for local planning authorities. It provides information to assist in the decision-making process, presenting results at a high "overview" level whilst allowing scrutiny of individual issues where required.

The SE Checklist is a tool for decision makers; in itself it does not make decisions. Flexibility is built into the tool to allow for variations in sites and locations as issues pertinent in one area may be less significant in another.”

Key Theoretical Background

“The question set was modified in the light of the Egan report ("Skills for Sustainable Communities", 2004) and the OPDM's "Sustainable Communities" work. It was further informed by national planning policy and good practice guidance such as the Environment Agency/CIBSE guidance on SUDs and the Urban Design Compendium (English Partnerships et al).”

All sections have direct links to policy documents, specific sections and articles thereof.

SUD Framework

“The Checklist includes questions and criteria organised under eight, easy to understand categories.”

1. Climate Change and Energy
2. Community
3. Place Making
4. Transport and Movement
5. Ecology
6. Resources
7. Business
8. Buildings

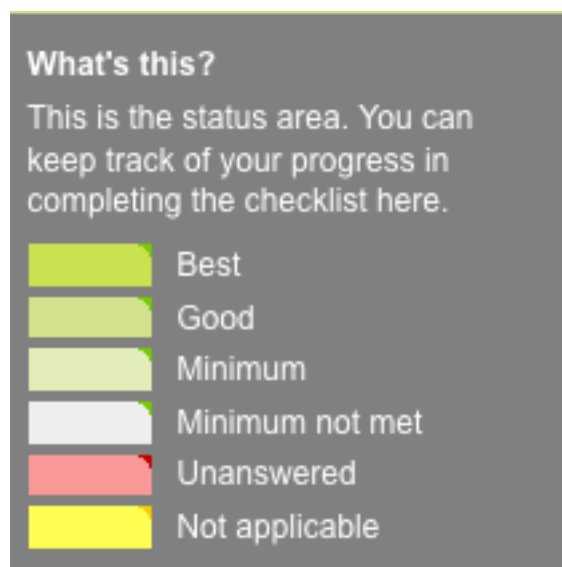
“Section headings were drawn up in consultation with the team working on the National Standards Framework for English Partnerships, CABE and the Housing Corporation. They cover the planning and land-use issues in both the Egan and former ODPM definitions of a sustainable community. Climate Change was covered in a specific section because of the national importance of the issue.”

“The same headings are used for the SE Checklist and those for the other English regions. This provides developers and planners with a degree of consistency, efficiency and similarity in approach across regions.”

Input

“Questions are organised in logical, topic-based categories, linked to local authority departments. Crosscutting themes, such as health, are not covered under a dedicated heading. Similarly, questions included in the Checklist, relevant to spatial planning and health, are not located in one section.

Where groups have an interest in crosscutting issues, we suggest they use the full list of questions to identify those which have relevance to the issue of interest, assessing the answers to examine the contribution a development proposal makes.”

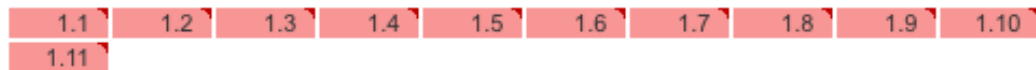


Current Status

Reviewing for research

You have answered 0 of 66 questions

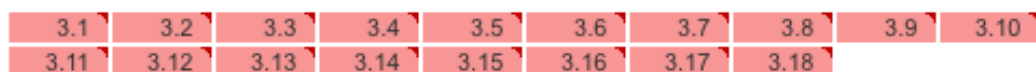
Climate Change and Energy



Community



Place Making



Transport and Movement



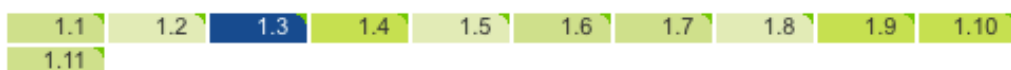
The tool provides an on-going visual update of how many questions have been answered, and how well the answers performed to meet the targets.

Current Status

Reviewing for research

Congratulations! You have completed all the questions

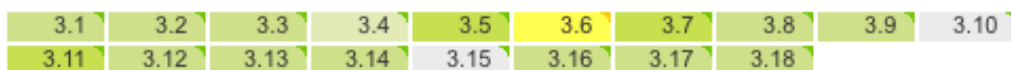
Climate Change and Energy



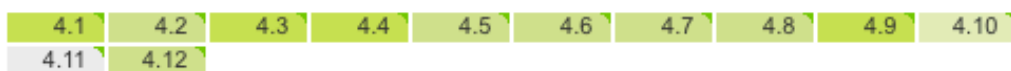
Community



Place Making



Transport and Movement



Methods

“an EIA can be used to answer some questions within the Checklist.”

To answer the questions there are two main types of answer: a list of options that can be concurrent or not, or a set of quantitative ratios that one must measure.


The first is mostly qualitative or at least a specific method is not indicated. The second implies a specific mathematical calculation.

Question 3.5

5 of 18 in Place Making

To achieve visual and physical connectivity that makes it easy to find the development and to navigate around.

« Previous | Next »

Importance: 

Last answered about 9 hours ago

Question

Are there physical and visual links between the development and the surrounding area, and how do they integrate the development with the surrounding area?

- A. Are new routes into the site continuations of existing access points from the surrounding area?

- B. How direct are sight lines of existing neighbourhood streets continued through the site?

- C. Are main routes within the site connected directly to main routes in the wider area without feeding through existing routes with less capacity or with a primarily residential function?

Targets and Justification

Best

- ☒ Not currently identified

Good

- ☐ A design strategy addressing all three issues

Minimum

- ☐ See relevant local planning authority standard for minimum required

Minimum not met

- ☐ None of the above

- ☐ This does not currently apply to my development

Save

Save and Continue »

Question 3.8

8 of 18 in Place Making

To ensure that building frontages encourage pedestrian usage of streets contributing to vitality.

« Previous | Next »

Importance: 

Last answered about 9 hours ago

Question

Will the 'Active Frontage Guidelines' of the English Partnerships Urban Design Compendium be met in order to promote vitality? *Note active frontages means encouraging pedestrian entrances and exits onto streets, which are frequently used (see table 5/3 Active frontage guidelines)*

Targets and Justification

Best

- ☐ 100% achieves at least Grade C frontage, 50% Grade A

Good

- ☒ 100% achieves at least Grade C frontage, 25% Grade A

Minimum

- ☐ See relevant local planning authority standard for minimum required

Minimum not met

- ☐ None of the above

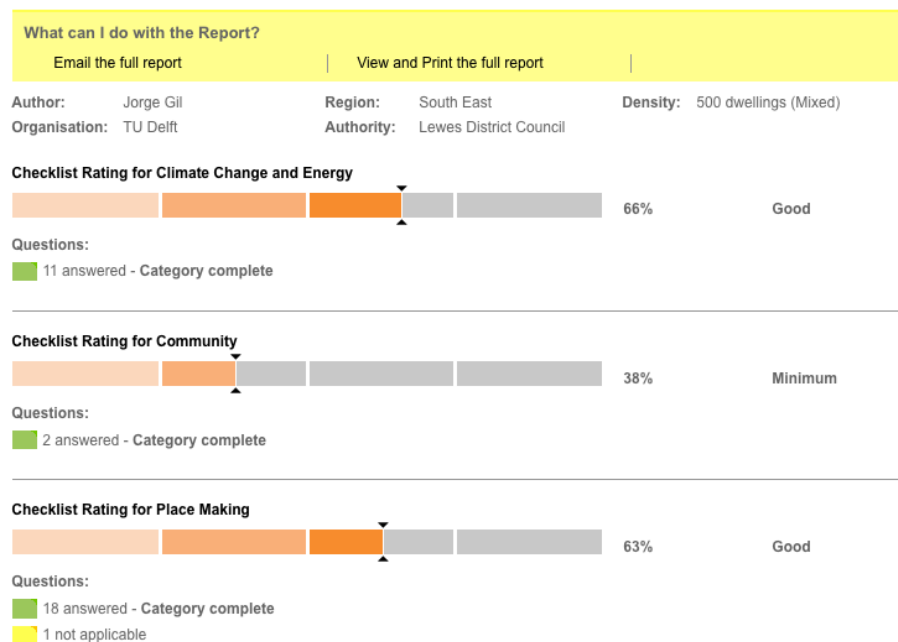
Output

The output is at two levels of detail: a “report summary” that gives an average weighted rating for each sustainability category, accompanied by simple graphics to offer a visual overview of the project’s performance in those categories; a “full report” that includes the rating of every answer under each category.

It does not offer an overall rating for the project as a single figure.

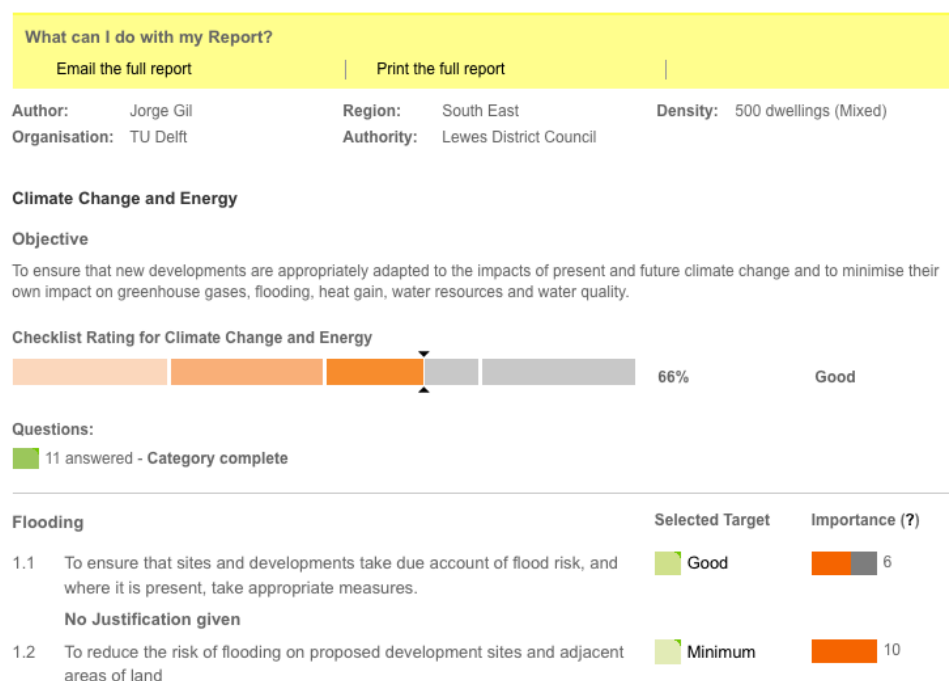
Report summary

Reviewing for research



Report

Reviewing for research



The South East Sustainability Checklist – Tool Review

General

Application (Scale and Design Phase)

It is intended for design and plan evaluation, with a mix of guideline and recommendation, as it points to many references on every question.

Sustainability Principles

These are not explicit anywhere, although one can see from the topics that the three dimensions were addressed.

Assessment Criteria

Has many similarities to LEED-ND in particular criteria. But is also more holistic and draws clearly from UK policy, covering many similar topics as Shaping Neighbourhoods.

Indicators and Methods

Doesn't go to the details of design codes, but has very little design indicators. It doesn't specify anywhere if distances are walking distance.
Includes many non-design indicators that are plans, statements and strategies.

Output

Simple summary, but useful for an overview. Doesn't attempt to rate, which means it serves more as a design guide. It is complementary to BREEAM Communities, which should offer the rating.

Specific topics

Urban Form

Mobility and Accessibility

Some criteria are concerned with these topics, as usual. More importance given to form and character of the area and the buildings.

Local/Global Context

Little concern is given to regional integration, however it's assumed from the start that these checks have been made before getting to this stage of the process.

Various criteria mention the immediate context, generally aiming at integration and complementarity at various levels: movement, architectural style, business offer.