

# CRADLE TO CRADLE BUILDING CHARTER

## Introduction

Traditionally, designers of buildings try to minimize their negative effects on the environment by attempting to reduce their impact on the ecology to zero. These “green” or “sustainable” building practices are ultimately “less bad” approaches that focus on reducing impacts and minimizing footprints. Ironically the message from this philosophy is that it would be best not to build the building at all.

Cradle to Cradle buildings are different. They are designed from the beginning to create positive impacts and beneficial footprints. Because of the complexity of buildings, and because the various Cradle to Cradle principles and protocols were only recently developed, a 100 percent Cradle to Cradle building does not exist yet. However it is still possible to design and construct a building informed by Cradle to Cradle principles, incorporating a wide range of C2C products and materials already found in the marketplace. While a Cradle to Cradle building does not need to be perfect, it does need to evidence a positive design agenda.

The Cradle to Cradle Building Charter serves as a clear delineation of the core philosophy, principles and guiding practices that inform the creation of Cradle to Cradle buildings. It is intended that the adherents to the Cradle to Cradle Building Charter form a community for innovation, collaboration and support.

## Commitment

When a designer is committed to creating a Cradle to Cradle Building, they take on certain obligations to guarantee that the completed project will meet performance expectations over time.

## Philosophy

Our goal is a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy and just world, with clean air, water, soil and power — economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed.

## Guiding Principles.

Cradle to Cradle buildings will:

- Incorporate materials that are technical and biological nutrients that can become safely reusable nutrients.
- Measurably use renewable energy. Examples of renewable energy include solar thermal, ground based and air-based heat exchange, wind, biomass, hydro and, photo-voltaic).
- Actively and measurably support biodiversity according to well-established biological tools for measuring species diversity.
- Anticipate evolution and change, incorporating strategies and approaches that enhance the ability for the building to adapt to a variety of uses over time.

## Innovation Concepts.

The building design team will actively use the following innovation concepts:

- Think beneficially instead of how to be less bad.
- Think big healthy footprint instead of a less bad minimized one.
- Think eco-effectiveness instead of just eco-efficiency.
- Improve quality of building systems, products and processes in measurable steps.
- Partner with customers & suppliers to establish material partnership communities.
- Think “materials opportunity” instead of “energy problem”
- Design building systems and processes according to their intended use for building occupants and for biological and technical metabolisms.
- Improve indoor air quality so it contributes healthy air to the building occupants, and to the outdoors.
- Design buildings, areas and processes that are energy positive.

## Technical Framework.

Have qualified C2C scientists apply ABC-X criteria to materials, ingredients and products incorporated in the building according to defined use scenarios. Define any biologically engineered processes and organisms used in the building and determine their safety.

## Cradle to Cradle Intentions and Goals for buildings and sites.

- Use building materials whose contents are measurably defined in Cradle to Cradle terms of chemical contents, effects on air, soil and water, and effects on human health from manufacturing through use and recovery in biological or technical pathways.
- Integrate topsoil production and carbon re-use into structures and landscapes to produce more biomass and soil than before development. Topsoil is defined here as the upper layer of soil, used for growing biomass. Topsoil is a main repository for carbon and for CO2 capture and storage. (Example: green roofs)
- Integrate renewable energy into buildings and area plans so they produce more energy than they use.
- Integrate healthy air production into buildings and area plans so they produce more healthy air than they use.
- Integrate measurable recycling of water and biological nutrients in buildings, landscaping, and spatial plans.
- Support measurable increases in species diversity (Flora and Fauna) according to accepted biological methods, so the area contains more diversity than before development of the building or site.
- Social Fairness: define, quantify and practice social responsibility criteria. Adopt and make publicly available statements regarding social performance goals and demonstrate it will be obtaining a third party social accreditation.