

EPD FOR ELECTRICITY FROM VATTENFALL WIND POWER

Vattenfall produces environmental product declarations (EPDs) for their wind-, hydro-, and nuclear power and is one of the leading companies within the field. An EPD provides a clear, quality-assured, and comparable information to the customers on how the electricity production impacts the environment. The EPDs are also used as a basis to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts along the life cycle.

Ramboll has assisted Vattenfall with Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) since 2015 and was responsible for the assessments in the two most recent updates of the environmental product declarations for Vattenfall's wind farms. Vattenfall published the updated EPDs for their wind power production in December 2018, where Ramboll was responsible for the LCAs in the project. The project included the performance of LCAs for four new wind farms in Denmark, Germany, Wales, and the Netherlands, as well as updates of operating data from Vattenfall's other wind farms. The assessment covers the entire life cycle from preparations, construction, the operation for 25 years, transportations, and decommissioning and demolition of the wind farms.

Vattenfall has about 50 wind farms in five different countries across Europe, both on land and at sea. The EPD is based on 13 of these, which accounts for about 60 percent of the total electricity production. The selection of wind farms is made so that it represents Vattenfall's total electricity production regarding several factors, including the local wind conditions, size, natural environment, and suppliers.

The demand for EPDs has increased considerably in recent years. Previously, they were made mainly by companies that wanted to profile themselves within sustainability, but today it is becoming more common that the buyers demand EPDs. Ramboll performs LCA calculations and produces EPDs in everything from wooden floors, hospital clothing, energy production and cardboard roof, and also conducts third-party reviews of EPDs for several EPD systems.

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

- An EPD is always based on a life cycle assessment but may also contain other environmental information.
- An EPD is always third-party verified so that the information can be trusted.
- There are currently (in 2021) about 12000 approved EPDs globally, most of which are in construction products
- In Sweden, the International EPD system is most often used for publishing EPDs.
- Ramboll has approved auditors in the International, Danish, and Norwegian EPD systems.

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Location: Stockholm, Sweden

Client: Vattenfall AB

Carried out: 2015 - 2018

Ramboll services:

Life-cycle assessments,
Collection of EPD-documentations
and support for independent reviews
and improvement proposals for
Vattenfall's EPD process.