

Cradle to Cradle-certified acoustic panels with low carbon footprint win German Sustainability Award

Cradle to Cradle Gold-certified Trolldtekt acoustic panels based on the cement type FUTURECEM™ have been named winner of the German Sustainability Award 2023. According to the organisations behind the award, it is Europe's most important award for environmental awareness and social commitment.

On Thursday 1 December, Jesper Kvist, Country & Business Development Manager at Trolldtekt GmbH, stepped up onto the stage in Dusseldorf to receive the prestigious German Sustainability Award 2023. The award in the 'Design' category went to Trolldtekt acoustic panels based on the low-carbon cement type FUTURECEM from Aalborg Portland.

"I felt incredibly proud as I went up onto the stage at the awards ceremony. Trolldtekt is one of only 15 companies to receive the award, so we're in very distinguished company," says Jesper Kvist.

Trolldtekt acoustic panels are made from Danish wood and cement. The cement gives Trolldtekt panels their strength, long service life and effective fire protection properties. But it also accounts for almost the entire carbon footprint of the panels.

Jesper Kvist continues:

"Therefore, it is something of a revolution that we've started to use a new type of cement which has a significantly lower carbon footprint than traditional cement. At the same time, Trolldtekt based on FUTURECEM is – like our other acoustic panels – Cradle to Cradle-certified at Gold level. And now leading experts have confirmed that we at Trolldtekt have taken a huge step, and we hope that the award will provide inspiration for other manufacturers of cement-based products."

Significantly lower carbon footprint

FUTURECEM exploits the synergies between calcined clay and limestone filler. In this way, much of the fired clinker in the cement can be replaced, resulting in cement with a lower carbon footprint.

Over their entire product life cycle, the carbon footprint of Trolldtekt acoustic panels based on FUTURECEM is:

- 26.4 per cent lower than for Trolldtekt based on grey cement
- 37.7 per cent lower than for Trolldtekt based on white cement.

With its Cradle to Cradle certification, Trolldtekt is now able to document that its acoustic panels contain no harmful substances. Trolldtekt cement-bonded wood wool can be recycled in the biological cycle as a soil conditioner, and in the technical cycle as a raw material in cement production.

Jury: An impressive solution

Both the lower carbon footprint and the Cradle to Cradle certification carried a lot of weight for the German Sustainability Award's expert jury. Among other things, they justify the choice of Trolldtekt as the winner as follows:

"The carbon footprint of the new acoustic panels from Trolldtekt is 30 per cent lower than for comparable products ...

... While the wood ensures breathability, the cement adds the desired strength, durability and fire protection properties. And completely without the use of harmful chemicals. The panels have a useful life of 50-70 years and can then be recycled rather than ending up as waste (Cradle to Cradle-certified at Gold level). In this way, the Trolldtekt acoustic panels contribute to the certification of climate and eco-friendly architecture under the leading certification schemes, while at the same time adding distinct aesthetic value.”

FACTS ABOUT THE GERMAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD:

- Since 2008, the German Sustainability Award has been presented by Stiftung Deutscher Nachhaltigkeitspreis e.V. in cooperation with, among others, the Federal Government of Germany.
- The organisations behind the award describe it as Europe’s most important award for environmental awareness and social commitment.
- The awards were presented in connection with the German Sustainability Day on 1-2 December 2022, which was attended by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as guest of honour.
- This year, companies were nominated in six categories, including the ‘Design’ category, which was won by Trolldtekt. The other award-winners included Michael Braungart, co-founder of the Cradle to Cradle concept, who received an honorary award.

FACTS ABOUT TROLDTEKT:

- Trolldtekt A/S is a leading developer and manufacturer of acoustic ceiling and wall solutions.
- Since 1935, Danish wood and cement have been the raw materials used in the production process, which takes place in modern facilities in Denmark with a low environmental impact.
- Trolldtekt’s business strategy has been developed around the Cradle to Cradle sustainable design concept as the central element.
- Since spring 2022, Trolldtekt has been part of the Kingspan Group, a multinational group headquartered in Ireland, which supplies highly efficient building materials to the global construction market – and which has operations in more than 70 countries.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tina Snedker Kristensen, Head of Sustainability and Communications, Trolldtekt A/S
T: +45 8747 8124 // E: tkr@trolldtekt.dk