

CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER ESSENTIALS

This document gives a brief overview of the CO₂ Performance Ladder and the foundation who owns and manages it, SKAO.



CO₂ Performance Ladder

The CO₂ Performance Ladder is an instrument that helps organisations reduce their carbon emissions in the organisation, projects and their supply chain. With a certificate on the Ladder, organisations can receive an award advantage in tenders. The instrument is used as both a CO₂ management system as well as a green procurement instrument.

Over 3000 businesses (almost 1000 certificates) in the Netherlands have already been certified on the CO₂ Performance Ladder as a carbon management system, and over 150 commissioning parties (including the administrators of the Dutch water, road and rail infrastructure

Rijkswaterstaat, ProRail and various decentral government bodies) are using the CO₂ Performance Ladder for tendering processes as a green procurement instrument.

Learn more about the CO₂ Performance Ladder in less than 5 minutes total by watching the animation of the CO₂ Performance Ladder as [CO₂ management system](#) and [Procurement Instrument](#).

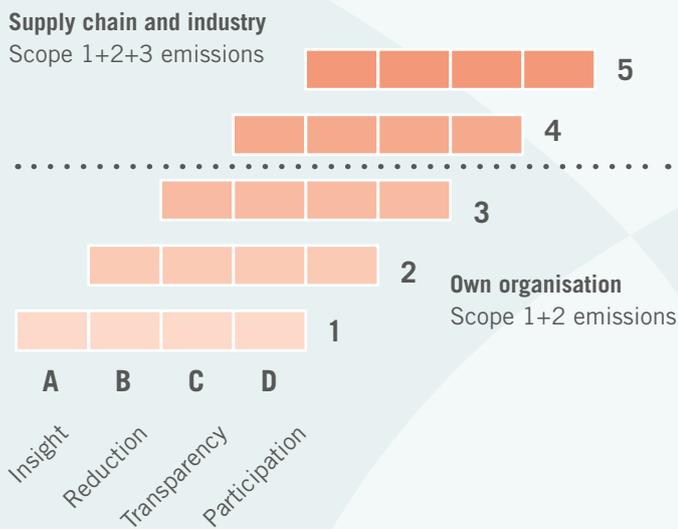


Procurement Instrument

- ✎ The CO₂ Performance Ladder is used for one in ten European tenders in the Netherlandsⁱ.
- ✎ During tendering processes, commissioning parties using the CO₂ Performance Ladder as a Green Public Procurement (GPP) instrument give advantage to sustainable tenders. The greater the company's level of ambition with regard to sustainability, the greater the advantage they receive. The five ambition levels are in line with the five levels of certification that companies can obtain, enabling government bodies to reward companies that actively work to reduce the carbon footprint of their business operations.
- ✎ The CO₂ Performance Ladder as procurement instrument uses the 'power of procurement' to: direct investments towards a low carbon economy, encourages companies who participate in tenders to stimulate their CO₂ awareness and reduction in their organisation, projects and supply chain.
- ✎ It creates competitive advantage for sustainable organisations and is in accordance with European procurement law.
- ✎ The CO₂ Performance Ladder has also proven that it can be used as a procurement instrument to promote a circular economy, as independent researchⁱⁱ shows.
- ✎ The OECD recognises the CO₂ Performance Ladder as a Best Practice for sustainable procurement.
- ✎ The Belgian governments launched a three-year pilot to implement the Ladder as a GPP instrument.
- ✎ SKAO recently wrote a [letter to the European Commission](#) on the role the CO₂ Performance Ladder could play in the Green Deal, with an endorsement letter from the state secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.
- ✎ A recent development is that commissioning parties are certifying their own organisations on the CO₂ Performance Ladder in the context of '*practice what you preach*'. For example, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management is certified on level 4.

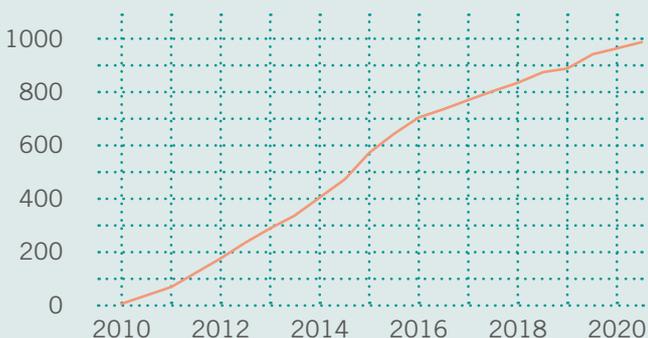
SKAO is regularly asked to exchange knowledge with (local) governments, businesses, NGOs and networks in other countries who are interested in this innovative Dutch instrument. For example Sweden, Ireland, Poland, Austria, France, Australia and institutions such as the UN. SKAO held a session on the CO₂ Performance Ladder at the COP21 in Paris.

CO₂ management system



The CO₂ Performance Ladder consists of 5 levels and 4 angles. Up to level 3, an organisation focuses on their scope 1 and 2 emissions, the own organisation. On level 4 and 5 also the supply chain and industry comes into focus, scope 3 emissions. On all levels there are requirements on 4 levels: insight (e.g. footprint), reduction (e.g. carbon reduction targets for each scope), transparency (structural internal and external communication) and participation (e.g. development of carbon innovations together with industry partners).

A certification on the CO₂ Performance Ladder is an alternative means of complying with the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) in the Netherlands.

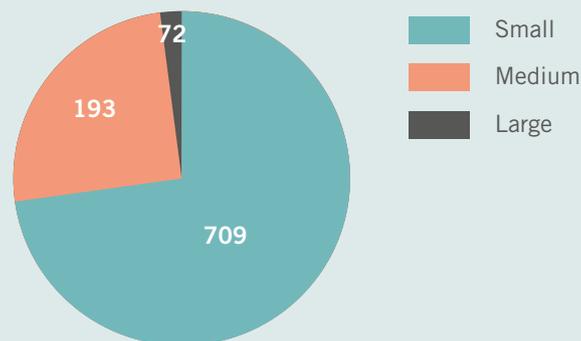


Number of certificates per year

Accredited CO₂ Management system for organisations based on international standards. It accelerates the transition towards a low carbon economy, requires supply chain collaboration and stimulates low carbon innovation.

Any type of company can obtain a certificate on the CO₂ Performance Ladder. This certificate demonstrates that the organisation has insight into its emissions, that ambitious objectives and measures are in place to reduce these emissions, that structural communication and collaboration is conducted in this area and that the organisation is continuously improving.

Scientific research shows that certified organisations reduce their CO₂ emissions at twice the rate of uncertified organisationsⁱⁱⁱ. The research also shows that by using the CO₂ Performance Ladder, all of the companies under investigation have implemented a fully fledged energy management system, which includes structural monitoring of emission trends and establishes reduction of CO₂ as a key business strategy.



Distribution of certificates by organisation size

Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business (SKAO)

The Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business, in Dutch 'Stichting Klimaatvriendelijk Aanbesteden en Ondernemen' (SKAO) is the owner and manager of the CO₂ Performance Ladder. It is an independent, not for profit foundation.

SKAO is responsible for the development, management and dissemination of the CO₂ Performance Ladder as both carbon management system and procurement instrument, stakeholder management, research, information and helpdesk.

SKAO encourages organisations and governments to reduce CO₂ with the CO₂ Performance Ladder with the aim of realizing a climate-neutral economy. We connect parties, share knowledge and are the heart of a large network.

SKAO consists of a secretariat with 5,5 fte, and facilitates structural meetings between the different stakeholders of the CO₂ Performance Ladder to ensure continuous development and a Ladder which is up to date with reality.

The different structural meetings of SKAO consist of the board, central college of experts and technical commission:

Board: which among other things supervises the independence and organisation of SKAO. It consists of representatives of the most important groups of stakeholders. The board member are:

- Dimitri Kruik (chair): Director of Capacity Management – ProRail
- Jan Hendrik Dronkers (treasurer): Director General – Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
- Leentje Volker: Professor Integrated Project Delivery – University of Twente
- Marjolein Demmers: Director – Natuur & Milieu
- Bart Smolders: CEO – Heijmans Infra B.V. on behalf of Bouwend Nederland
- Erik van Engelen: Managing Director – Techniek Nederland

Central College of Experts (CCvD): The CCvD is responsible for operational management of the CO₂ Performance Ladder. Its primary responsibility is to keep the certification scheme up-to-date and it serves as a point of contact for the Certifying Organisations. It consists of representatives of public authorities and trade organisations. To see the members of the Board and CCvD, please refer to <https://www.skao.nl/about-skao>

Technical Commission: [Ladder Certifying Bodies](#) are accredited by the Dutch Accreditation Council for the CO₂ Performance Ladder. SKAO organises structural meetings between the (lead) auditors to harmonize how the Ladder is interpreted in practice.



◀ The CO₂ Performance Ladder certificate for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management is handed to the State Secretary Stientje van Veldhoven.

▼ SKAO with a number of commissioning parties during a meeting on the CO₂ Performance Ladder in 2019.



History

The CO₂ Performance Ladder was developed by ProRail in 2009. They were the first public authority to use it in their tenders. When other public authorities became interested in using the CO₂ Performance Ladder as procurement instrument, ProRail looked for a reliable external party to own and manage the CO₂ Performance Ladder. In 2011 SKAO was founded as owner and manager of the CO₂ Performance Ladder.

SKAO has no employees. The secretariat is formed by employees of Climate Foundation HIER (Klimaatstichting HIER). [HIER](#) is amongst other activities the Program Coordinator for the Program of the Participation Coalition. A 3 year program under the Dutch Climate Accord, with 5 partners and a budget of 2,5 million Euro's annually that is managed, distributed and monitored by HIER.



▲ King Willem-Alexander (then Prince) during a speech at the establishment of the Foundation for Climate Friendly Procurement and Business (SKAO) in 2011.

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ⁱ Monitor aanbestedingen en opdrachtgevers CO₂-Prestatieladder [Monitor of Tendering Procedures and Clients using the CO₂ Performance Ladder], Significant and SKAO (2016)

ⁱⁱ Circulair inkopen heeft effect, in Dutch, RIVM (2020)

ⁱⁱⁱ Improving energy and carbon management in construction, Rietbergen et. al (2016)