



CEEQUAL



# CEEQUAL: The Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme

The CEEQUAL Scheme assesses the environmental quality of civil engineering projects and publicly recognises the achievement of high environmental performance. Awards are made to projects in which clients, designers and constructors go beyond the legal and environmental minima to achieve distinctive environmental standards in their work.

## CEEQUAL:

- provides a benchmark standard for environmental performance
- demonstrates the commitment of the civil engineering industry to environmental quality
- celebrates the achievement of high environmental standards in civil engineering projects.

The CEEQUAL Award is given through the Institution of Civil Engineers to projects that have been assessed against detailed and specific environmental criteria. It is applicable to civil engineering projects of any size or description.

## Four types of award are available:

- **Whole Project Award** – for a joint application by the Client, Designer and Principal Contractor
- **Design and Build Award** – for partnership contract teams
- **Design Award** – for principal Designers only
- **Construction Process Award** – for Principal Contractors only.

The CEEQUAL Scheme has been developed by a team lead by the Institution of Civil Engineers.



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Babtie Brown & Root's design of the Littlestone Sea Defence for the Environmental Agency received an Excellent Award

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Osberton Top Bridge Refurbishment project by British Waterways and GallifordTry received a Very Good Award

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British Waterways' Polesworth Embankment project constructed by AWG Construction Services received a Very Good Award

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Arup and Nuttall's Wakefield Flood Defence works for the Environment Agency received an Excellent Award

## Why CEEQUAL?

Civil engineering shapes and influences the environment in which we live, for the benefit of society and to deliver its expected standard of living. Many civil engineering schemes intrinsically improve environmental quality and human quality of life.

Yet civil engineering projects are often perceived by society to have a damaging effect on the living environment and there is substantial and increasing pressure to reduce their environmental impact during construction and whole-life performance. Schemes that are not built to exacting environmental standards, or that use environmentally intrusive and damaging construction processes, risk alienating communities and bringing the whole construction process and industry into disrepute. CEEQUAL provides a frame of reference and an incentive to clients, designers and contractors to adopt best environmental practice and to deliver sustainable construction.

## How has CEEQUAL been developed?

CEEQUAL has been developed over a period of three years by a team led by the Institution of Civil Engineers, with Government financial support from the DETR and DTI "Partners in Innovation" schemes. A broad spectrum of over 40 leading civil engineering consultants and contractors, professional and industry associations, and government agencies have actively participated in the process. There has been wide industry consultation and input through development workshops, and the assessment and award criteria have been extensively trialled on more than 20 civil engineering projects.

## What does CEEQUAL assess?

CEEQUAL complements statutory requirements, by operating during and after design, checking what is actually built (except in the design-only award) and how it is built. It does not assess the environmental *need* for the project, but supports clients, designers and contractors in dealing positively with environmental quality issues relevant to the project, and helps to integrate such thinking into the design and construction processes. It uses a credit-based framework of issues and questions relating to:

- **Project environmental management**
- **Land use**
- **Landscape**
- **Ecology and biodiversity**
- **Archaeology and cultural heritage**
- **Impacts on water resources**
- **Energy**
- **Material use**
- **Waste management**
- **Transport**
- **Nuisance to neighbours**
- **Community relations and joy in use**

Issues or questions that are not relevant to the specific project being assessed are scoped out before the assessment takes place.



Target Alliance's Reading Sewage Treatment Plant received an Excellent Award

Northern Ireland Water Service and the Geda/EPS Consortium received an Excellent Award for the Greyabbey and Kircubbin Wastewater Treatment Works in County Down

Taylor Woodrow and WSP's Newburn Riverside land reclamation project for One North East received a Very Good Award

Northern Ireland Roads Service, Scott Wilson and Ferguson McIlveen, and Whitemountain Quarries Ltd received a Very Good Award for the Newtown Stewart Bypass

## How does the CEEQUAL assessment work?

CEEQUAL is based on a self-assessment, carried out by a trained CEEQUAL Assessor, who may be on the staff of – or contracted in by – the applicant. The assessment is validated by an external Verifier appointed by CEEQUAL, who works to support the Assessor, and the result and award recommendation is checked and ratified by the CEEQUAL organisation.

The applicant organisation receives a copy of the latest version of the CEEQUAL Manual and a spreadsheet scoring table, for use by their Assessor. The issues and questions relevant to the project are scoped by the Assessor and the Verifier working together.

The Assessor addresses the questions, completes the scoring spreadsheet and gathers all the required supporting evidence. This task has no time limit. It may be done as a rolling activity throughout the life of the project, or may be done near the end of the project. For large or long-term projects it is recommended that a decision on applying for CEEQUAL assessment is taken early in the project life so that a CEEQUAL file of evidence can be compiled without difficulty as the project progresses.

The Verifier reviews the scores and evidence in dialogue with the Assessor, usually undertaking a site visit for this purpose. The final score and award recommendation is checked and ratified by the CEEQUAL organisation, and signed CEEQUAL Award certificates are presented to all the project partners, in a public ceremony at the Institution of Civil Engineers whenever appropriate.

## What level of achievement merits a CEEQUAL Award?

CEEQUAL assesses the extent to which the project has exceeded the statutory and regulatory minima, and it is unlikely that a 100% score is achievable in any single project. The Award thresholds, based on the maximum possible score for that project as scoped by the Assessor and Verifier, are:

- Exceeded by 25% – Pass
- Exceeded by 40% – Good
- Exceeded by 60% – Very Good
- Exceeded by 75% – Excellent (the actual score is given on the Award Certificate)

## How much will a CEEQUAL assessment and award cost?

The CEEQUAL organisation charges a fee to cover the cost of the Verifier and the administration and progressive development of the CEEQUAL Scheme. The fee is based on the civil engineering value of the project at contract award. The minimum fee is £1000 for small projects up to £1 million, rising non-linearly to a maximum of £10 000 for large projects greater than £200 million. In addition, the applicant organisation will need to train or contract in a CEEQUAL Assessor: the training fee is £600.

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I am delighted that my Department has been able to support the development of this Scheme. In many ways, it is complementary to the Government Construction Clients Panel Sustainability Action Plan – Achieving sustainability in construction procurement... CEEQUAL has the potential to become a welcome addition to the sustainability toolkit and to help facilitate the creation of a more-sustainable built environment.

**Brian Wilson** (Minister of State for Industry and Energy, April 2002)

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## A CEEQUAL Award

for your civil engineering project will identify you as an organisation that:

- measures and compares standards of performance,
- respects people and the society in which it operates,
- undertakes its work in an ethical and sustainable manner,
- acts in a socially and environmentally responsible way,
- protects and enhances the environment,

and is concerned about the major impacts of construction on the environment and the earth's resources.

## More information

For more information about CEEQUAL visit [www.ceequal.com](http://www.ceequal.com)

- To:
- Apply for an award
  - Find out more information about an award
  - Purchase a manual

Call **020 8399 4389** or email [ceequal@crane-environmental.co.uk](mailto:ceequal@crane-environmental.co.uk)



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