



# STEPS TO THE DGNB SPECIAL AWARD ECOLABEL

Guide for projects in the areas HafenCity, Billebogen,  
Grasbrook, and Science City Hamburg Bahrenfeld

The **DGNB Special Award Ecolabel** is the joint building certificate of the German Sustainable Building Council (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen, DGNB) and HafenCity Hamburg GmbH.

This guide is aimed at developers who are seeking certification with the DGNB special award Ecolabel. This is possible in the four downtown areas HafenCity, Billebogen, Grasbrook, and Science City Hamburg Bahrenfeld, which are being developed by HafenCity Hamburg GmbH and its subsidiaries.

The DGNB special award Ecolabel takes central aspects of sustainability from the previously independently managed HafenCity Ecolabel and combines them with the DGNB system. It is awarded as a special award in combination with a regular DGNB certificate, which is compatible with national funding guidelines and the E.U. taxonomy. Developers benefit from uniform methodological and documentation standards thanks to an integrated inspection process carried out by the DGNB.

The inspection process is based on the criteria established by the DGNB system. The specific requirements to be met are found exclusively in weighting tables, which refer to the certification criteria of the DGNB system. The requirements are defined as minimum requirements that must be met without exception.

Two inspection phases must be completed in order to receive the DGNB special award Ecolabel.

#### Initial certification:

The DGNB special award Ecolabel is initially awarded for a maximum of four years based on the certification process for the DGNB System for New Construction of Buildings.

#### Recertification:

Based on the DGNB certificate for Buildings in Use, the DGNB special award Ecolabel is permanently valid. Recertification is not required.

The path to the DGNB special award Ecolabel is carried out in **six steps**, which are outlined in this guide.

## Documentation and further information

All required documents are available digitally from DGNB GmbH ([www.dgnb.de/en/certification/specific-applications-of-the-dgnb-system/dgnb-special-award-ecolabel](http://www.dgnb.de/en/certification/specific-applications-of-the-dgnb-system/dgnb-special-award-ecolabel)) and HafenCity Hamburg GmbH ([hafencity.com/en/dgnb-certification](http://hafencity.com/en/dgnb-certification)) or can be requested there.



Weighting tables and  
certification criteria  
(DGNB GmbH)



Further information  
(HafenCity Hamburg GmbH)

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# Six steps towards the DGNB special award Ecolabel

## Preparation and registration

1



### Development of a set of specifications on sustainability requirements

Developers need to first draw up a set of specifications before they can register their project for the DGNB special award Ecolabel. Project-specific objectives and conceptual approaches are documented in this set of specifications on sustainability requirements. The creation of the specifications also serves as preparation for the architectural competition, in which the conceptual sustainability considerations are incorporated.

**Note:** Unless otherwise agreed individually, the specifications are to be regarded as the developer's tool. It does not replace the requirements of the DGNB special award Ecolabel.

2



### Agreement with HafenCity Hamburg GmbH

The developer submits the specifications and concludes the contract "Agreement on the application to start the certification process" with HafenCity Hamburg GmbH. Registration with DGNB GmbH will take place after this step (step 3).

3



### Contract with DGNB GmbH

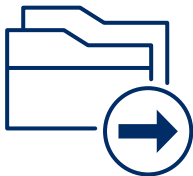
The application for the DGNB special award Ecolabel is made in combination with the DGNB "New Construction of Buildings" and "Buildings in Use" certificates.

The developer concludes a certification contract with DGNB GmbH. Among other things, this specifies which weighting tables serve as the basis for the subsequent conformity check (step 5).

**Note:** The developer commissions DGNB GmbH at their own expense. The inspection process for the DGNB special award Ecolabel is integrated into the regular DGNB GmbH inspection process. This means that the costs for the inspection regarding the special award are included in the certification fees for the general DGNB certificates.

## Planning and construction

4



### Delivery of data

The developer calculates the sustainability parameters and develops sub-concepts in order to meet the certification requirements. They already share some data and documents with HafenCity Hamburg GmbH during the planning and construction phase. By evaluating this data, HafenCity Hamburg GmbH gains insights into the adaptation of sustainability requirements, among other things.

**Note:** Developers share the project data using project profiles. Details of this are regulated in the agreement with HafenCity Hamburg GmbH (step 2).

## Completion of construction

5



### Initial certification:

#### Submission of documentation for the conformity check

The developer submits all documentation to DGNB GmbH for the conformity check as part of the New Construction of Buildings certification. This party in turn informs HafenCity Hamburg GmbH whether the audited project complies with the requirements of the DGNB special award Ecolabel. If the result of the assessment is positive and all project profiles (step 4) have been submitted in full, HafenCity Hamburg GmbH awards the DGNB special award Ecolabel in the form of a temporary certificate. This initial certification is valid for a maximum of four years.

## Use

6



### Recertification:

#### Submission of documentation for the conformity check

The registration and conclusion of the certification contract have already taken place in step 3. The developer submits all documentation to DGNB GmbH for the conformity check as part of the Building in Use certification. This party in turn informs HafenCity Hamburg GmbH that the project complies with the requirements of the DGNB special award Ecolabel. If the result of the assessment is positive and the last project profile has been submitted in full, the project is awarded the DGNB special award Ecolabel by HafenCity Hamburg GmbH. The recertification means that the special award is permanently valid.