The assessment system is designed to identify and assess the sustainability of buildings. It is structured in six main criteria groups: Health, comfort, and user satisfaction; Indoor air quality and thermal comfort; Economic quality; Technical quality, location profile; Process quality; Management and design. The criteria are further divided into sub-criteria, each of which is assigned a weight. The total score for each criterion is calculated based on the sum of all sub-criteria scores, and the overall score for the assessment is determined by averaging the scores across all criteria. The assessment system is continuously updated to reflect changes in the area of statutory regulations and standards. It is used to evaluate the sustainability of buildings, with the aim of promoting sustainable building practice.
Guideline for Sustainable Building
The Guideline for Sustainable Building offers concrete and practical advice for planning, constructing, maintaining, operating and using buildings in accordance with the principles of sustainable development as a toolbox for meeting the comprehensive requirements of federal construction measures where its implementation is mandatory (other clients, such as the federal states, the local authorities or the private sector, can also make use of the guide). Moreover, the Guideline for Sustainable Building takes into account the implementation of the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) which provides the basis for assessing the final sustainability of buildings.

Part A: Basic Principles

The classic approach with respect to sustainability is based on three dimensions of ecology, economy and sociocultural factors, each of which have an influence on the life cycle of a building and long-term consideration. Protective goods and targets are deduced from these dimensions, for example the protection of the environment, of capital and of health.

Part B: Sustainable Building Projects

Part B of the Guideline for Sustainable Building covers the implementation of the basic principles defined in Part A during the entire planning and construction process. Thus, the course for a sustainable future of buildings is set at an early stage.

It explains the task-related principles, the life-cycle scenarios to be considered and the planning principles for new construction projects and construction projects in connection with existing buildings. It is based on the chronological order of the planning phases as stipulated in the Guidelines for Sustainable Building Projects (RBBau) and is supplemented by information regarding research topics, current events and an array of good examples for sustainable building.

Part C: Use and Operation

Part C provides recommendations for the Sustainable Use of Buildings (EHOAI) which specifies measures regarding the use of resources and the minimisation of effects on the environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMLRN). All actors involved in the planning process can make use of these resources to implement measures that are based on the principles and aims of sustainable development.

Part D: Refurbishment of Buildings

Part D contains specific comments, provisions and recommendations for the refurbishment of existing buildings. It complements Parts A and B which in principle also apply to construction work with building stock.

The refurbishment of existing buildings is treated separately for two reasons. On the one hand, the planning and construction processes in refurbishment projects differ from those in new construction projects. On the other hand, certain sustainability aspects must be looked at from a different perspective when dealing with building stock.

Annexes

The annexes to the Guideline for Sustainable Building contain a comprehensive toolkit to facilitate quality assurance, such as templates for target agreements, periodic updates of the process and an array of good examples for sustainable building.