

Introduction

This calculator should be used in conjunction with London Plan Guidance 'Urban Greening Factor', 2021.

The Urban Greening Factor (UGF) is a tool that evaluates and quantifies the urban greening proposed in new developments. The UGF works by assigning a factor score to each surface cover type proposed in a planning application. Scores range from 1 for semi natural vegetation, through to 0 for impermeable sealed surfaces.

Instructions

- Cells highlighted in green should be completed by the applicant;
- Green cover should be categorised in accordance with Appendix 1 of the UGF guidance;
- The notes column should be used to record any assumptions (e.g. how expected tree canopy has been calculated) and to set out which features (e.g. the type of semi-natural habitat) have been included in the appropriate row;
- The calculation table should be copied to UGF drawing to be submitted for planning;
- The UGF should always be calculated on the total site area, equivalent to the red line boundary;
- Adjacent areas of land under the ownership or management of the applicant but not subject to the planning application must not be included; and
- Retained surface cover types should be included in the calculation.

Urban Greening Factor Calculator				
Surface Cover Type	Factor	Area (m²)	Contribution	Notes
Semi-natural vegetation (e.g. trees, woodland, species-rich grassland) maintained or established on site.	1		0	
Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) maintained or established on site.	1		0	
Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure. Substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm.	0.8		0	
Standard trees planted in connected tree pits with a minimum soil volume equivalent to at least two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree.	0.8		0	
Extensive green roof with substrate of minimum settled depth of 80mm (or 60mm beneath vegetation blanket) – meets the requirements of GRO Code 2014.	0.7	216	151.2	
Flower-rich perennial planting.	0.7	63	44.1	
Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements.	0.7		0	
Hedges (line of mature shrubs one or two shrubs wide).	0.6		0	
Standard trees planted in pits with soil volumes less than two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree.	0.6		0	
Green wall –modular system or climbers rooted in soil.	0.6		0	
Groundcover planting.	0.5		0	
Amenity grassland (species-poor, regularly mown lawn).	0.4	0	0	
Extensive green roof of sedum mat or other lightweight systems that do not meet GRO Code 2014.	0.3		0	
Water features (chlorinated) or unplanted detention basins.	0.2		0	
Permeable paving.	0.1	312	31.2	
Sealed surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt, waterproofing, stone).	0		0	
Total contribution			226.5	
Total site area (m²)				747
Urban Greening Factor				0.303212851