

Introduction

This calculator should be used in conjunction with the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) London Plan Guidance, 2023 (see adjacent link, cell F2).

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/implementing-london-plan/london-plan-guidance/urban-greening-factor-ugf-guidance>

The 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. Factor scores range from 1 for semi-natural vegetation, through to 0 for impermeable sealed surfaces.

Instructions

- All cells highlighted in green should be completed by the applicant;
- Surface 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 relevant row;
- The calculation table should be copied on to the accompanying UGF site plan to be submitted as part of the planning application;□
- 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 (m ²)	Contribution	Notes
Semi-natural vegetation (e.g. trees, woodland, species-rich grassland) maintained or established on site.	1	70	70	
Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) maintained or established on	1	0	0	
Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure. Substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm.	0.8	0	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	12	9.6	
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	0	0	
Flower-rich perennial planting.	0.7	20	14	
Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements.	0.7	0	0	
Hedges (line of mature shrubs one or two shrubs wide).	0.6	39	23.4	
Standard trees planted in pits with soil volumes less than two thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree.	0.6	0	0	
Green wall –modular system or climbers rooted in soil.	0.6	0	0	
Groundcover planting.	0.5	0	0	
Amenity grassland (species-poor, regularly mown lawn).	0.4	300	120	
Extensive green roof of sedum mat or other lightweight systems that do not meet GRO Code 2014.	0.3	0	0	
Water features (chlorinated) or unplanted detention basins.	0.2	0	0	
Permeable paving.	0.1	230	23	
Sealed surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt, waterproofing, stone).	0	100	0	
Total contribution			260	
Urban Greening Factor			0.481481481	