

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.

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| 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 | 0 | 0 | |
| Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) maintained or established on site. | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure. Substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm. | 0.8 | 0.0 | 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 | 10 | 8 | |
| 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 | 282 | 197.4 | Biodiverse green roof with variable substrate depth between 80mm - 150mm |
| Flower-rich perennial planting. | 0.7 | 13 | 9.1 | |
| Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements. | 0.7 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hedges (line of mature shrubs one or two shrubs wide). | 0.6 | 0 | 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 | 0 | |
| Green wall –modular system or climbers rooted in soil. | 0.6 | 15 | 9 | |
| Groundcover planting. | 0.5 | 0 | 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 | 0 | |
| Water features (chlorinated) or unplanted detention basins. | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | |
| Permeable paving. | 0.1 | 98 | 9.8 | |
| Sealed surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt, waterproofing, stone). | 0 | 330 | 0 | |
| Total contribution | | | 233.3 | |
| Total site area (m²) | | | | 723 |

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| Urban Greening Factor | 0.322683264 |
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