

GI Valuation Toolkit



Quick Facts

Inputs

Data about the project area and local population statistics in Excel

Outputs

Reports including a cost-benefit assessment and economic value summary

Scale

Local scale

Context

A range of land uses

Cost

Open access

Software required

Microsoft Excel

Skills Required

Microsoft Excel, basic level

Developer

A consortium from Natural Economy Northwest, Tees Valley Unlimited, The Northern Way, Natural England, Design for London, CABE, Defra, and five regional development agencies. The toolkit was prepared by Genecon.

Description

The Green Infrastructure Valuation toolkit provides a set of calculator tools to assess the value of a green asset or a proposed green investment. Where possible, the benefits of green infrastructure (GI) are given an economic value. Other quantitative (e.g. number of jobs) and qualitative (e.g. links to case studies or research) contributions can also be provided to give a complete view of the value of an asset.

Ecosystem services included

14 ecosystem services across regulating and cultural categories.

Habitats

Urban, semi-natural grasslands, woodland, freshwater, wetlands and floodplains, and enclosed farmland.

How does it work?

The benefits provided by GI are assessed in terms of the function that it may perform, support or encourage. Benefits are grouped into 20 ecosystem services (14 of which are currently functioning). The information upon which the tool is based has been obtained from published studies and sources including Defra, Natural England, Forest Research and Ecotec. The tool provides insight into key evidence and concepts from a range of sectors including economic development and regeneration, public health and nature conservation. The economic valuation aspect of the tool means that it has the potential to translate findings into a business case.

Case studies in the UK

The tool has been used in Belvedere, Erith and Thamesmead, London to enhance the environmental and social quality of 156 ha of marshland. Total benefits generated by the improvements are estimated to be approx £55m, whilst the cost of regeneration is £10.54m making it a good rate of return on investment.

Where can I get it?

www.bit.ly/givaluationtoolkit

Development of the Tool Assessor database and information sheets was funded by JNCC.