ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CRITERIA

The environmental impact of each pipe material was assess against seven different criteria across its full life cycle

‘Abiotic-depletion non -fossil: the over-extraction of minerals, fossil fuels and other non-living, non-renewable materials which can lead to exhaustion of natural resources.

‘Abiotic-depletion’ fossil: The over-extraction of fossil fuels including all fossil resources.

‘Acidification’ potential: emissions, such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from manufacturing processes, result in acid rain which harms soil, water supplies, human and animal organisms, and the ecosystem.

‘Eutrophication’ potential: which arises from of the over-fertilisation of water and soil by nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorous). This speeds up plant growth and kills off animal life in lakes and waterways.

‘Global warming’ potential (its carbon footprint): the insulating effect of greenhouse gases - CO2 and methane - in the atmosphere is a major contributor to global warming, affecting both human health and that of the ecosystem in which we live.

‘Ozone-depletion’ potential: depletion of the ozone layer in the atmosphere caused by the emission of chemical foaming and cleaning agents allows the passage of greater levels of UV from the sun, causing skin cancer and reducing crop yields.

‘Photochemical-oxidation’ potential: where the photochemical reaction of sunlight with primary air pollutants such as volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides leads to chemical smogs that affect human health, food crops and the ecosystem in general.

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