

The logo features a green four-pointed starburst icon to the left of the text. The word 'green' is in a lowercase, light green sans-serif font. The word 'star' is in a larger, bold, dark grey sans-serif font. Below 'greenstar' is the text 'FUTURE FOCUS' in a bold, dark grey sans-serif font. The letter 'O' in 'FOCUS' is replaced by a green four-pointed starburst icon.

greenstar FUTURE FOCUS

The next evolution of the Green Star rating system

National Strategic sponsor



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green building council australia



Global megatrends are rapidly reshaping our industry and the built environment.

These include climate and demographic change, urbanisation, big data, artificial intelligence and technological innovation driving an increasing focus on our cities, health and well-being, human rights, equity and resilience. These drivers are accelerating.

2015

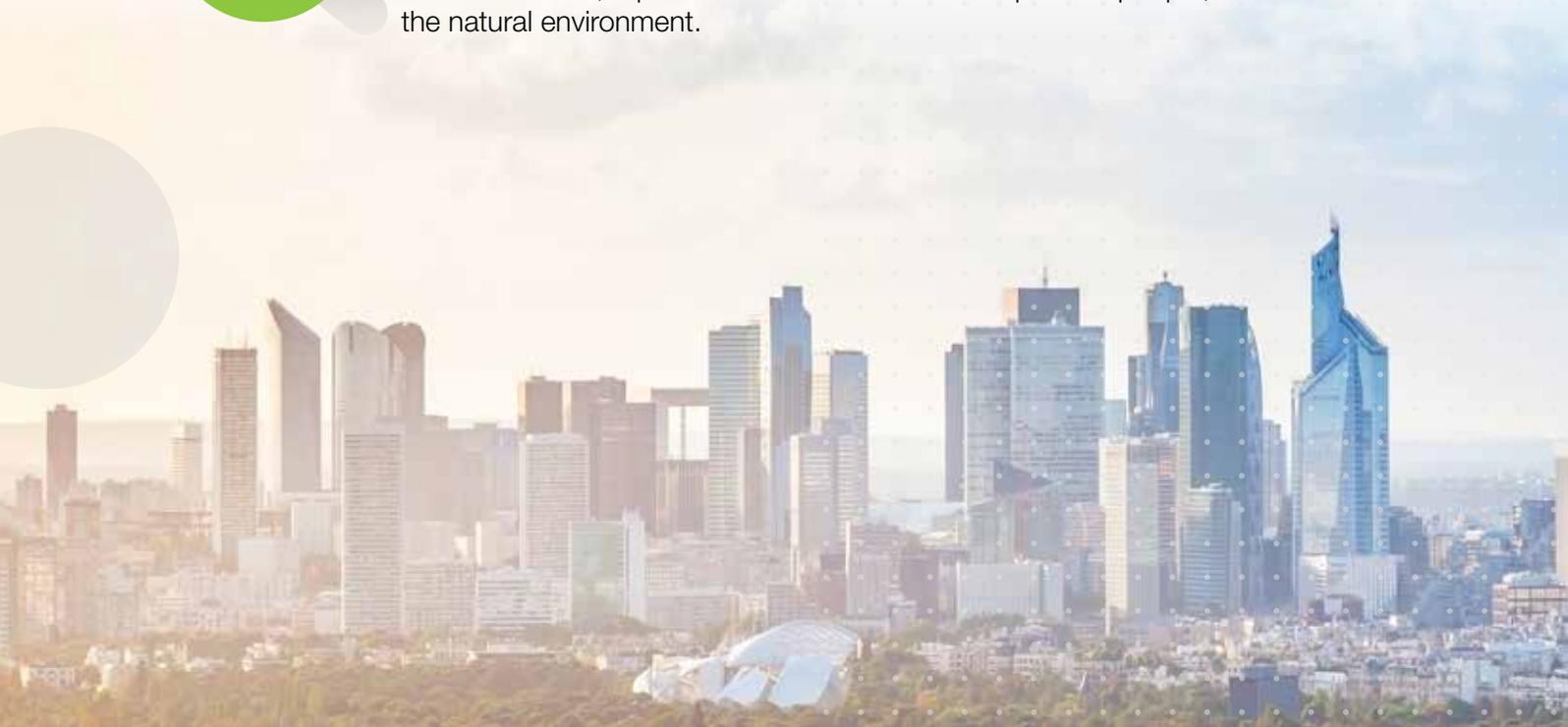
In 2015, the world signed on to the Paris Climate Change Agreement. More broadly, the urgency of climate action started to become clear across the globe.

2016

In 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was set by the United Nations supported by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The built environment is now seen as key to improving people's health and well-being. Affordability, social cohesion, community engagement, mobility and connection to nature are all issues that the modern built environment must address.

2017

In 2017, investors, lenders, insurers, and stakeholders were seeking to reduce their exposure to risk through investments in assets that are low carbon and resilient to the shocks and stresses of climate change. Organisations are now responding to increasing scrutiny and pressure to prevent human rights abuse, and to measure, report and act to reduce their impact on people, cities and the natural environment.



The delivery of the Green Building Council of Australia's vision for healthy, resilient, and positive places for people and the natural environment demands that we respond to these megatrends and emerging challenges.

In parallel Green Star must also evolve and adapt to meet our expectations of what a sustainable built environment should deliver.

In this context, we are seeking your feedback on the future of Green Star, focusing on the following three questions:

- ◆ What will define world leadership in the next iteration of Green Star?
- ◆ What new challenges must Green Star respond to?
- ◆ How should Green Star respond to these challenges?

This paper provides a high-level summary of the changes we are considering for Green Star, with a view to working with you, the people who use Green Star, to deliver updated tools from 2019.

Change for success

The proposals summarised in this paper are significant and include:

- ◆ increasing the scope and stringency of Green Star ratings;
- ◆ introducing requirements for ongoing operational performance; and of course
- ◆ providing industry with an appropriate period of transition.

Your feedback is critical. Given the significance of the changes being proposed, a complementary Discussion Paper provides a further opportunity for you or your team to consider these changes in greater detail and provide a more comprehensive response. Given the importance and urgency of reducing our carbon emissions, in parallel with Green Star Future Focus, the release of the GBCA's Carbon Positive Roadmap provides more specific information on our plan to reduce emissions through Green Star.

The success of Green Star to date is due to your support, and that of your colleagues across industry. We want to ensure the next iteration continues to meet all of our collective needs. We appreciate your time, input and the spirit of collaboration that we know will help us to continue to deliver our vision well into the future.

World leadership in 2025

Our vision is for healthy, resilient and positive places for people and the natural environment. Therefore, we propose that all world-leading buildings, fitouts and precincts be:

Healthy – have amenities that enhance a person’s well-being, encourage healthy and active transport and lifestyle decisions, mimic or connect with nature and provide a comfortable environment. They are conceived, built and operated to reduce or eliminate toxic materials, are well ventilated and lit.

Resilient – ready to address the future impacts of climate change and to respond positively to other changes and shocks. A world leading asset should be resilient to natural disasters and man-made impacts including changing technology and demographics. It should be resilient to long-term risks to its value. It should minimise exposure to risks negatively impacting people’s health and human rights. It should continue working in the face of adversity. A world-leading asset should make the community and surroundings more resilient too.

Positive – focused on delivering a better environment for people and the planet. An asset that is positive is highly efficient with the use of our limited natural resources. It has lower energy consumption thanks to smarter design. Renewable energy powers the buildings and infrastructure (on-site or off-site). It is mostly fossil-fuel free and is carbon neutral by offsetting all its emissions. For new assets, this also includes reducing and offsetting its embodied carbon.

Places – able to respond to the needs of people and our planet. They should be smart, well-designed, managed and governed. They must be affordable. They must deliver on their commitments. They are safe, comfortable, inclusive and of high amenity. They improve the urban fabric, enhance the local infrastructure, and provide value to the community.

People – able to show that all are welcome, and people thrive in them. They are designed for everyone, beyond accessibility compliance laws. They are also designed to respect and celebrate our culture and our history. They help encourage reconciliation and help people connect with each other. Assets must be built with consideration of the rights of future occupants, the workers involved, those involved in the supply chain, and those in the surrounding community.

Natural environment – considerate of the current and historic impacts to our natural environment. They must reduce any impact on the site and enhance it as much as possible. A world leading asset contributes to increasing the ecological value and biodiversity of the site and beyond. They use their influence to connect green corridors in the city and work to enhance a city’s biodiversity.

Do you agree that this represents what a world leading built environment should look like in 2025?

What would you change?

The Future Focus of Green Star: Overview

The following outcomes are being proposed as part of the update. We are asking for your thoughts. Do you support the following statements?

- 1 All Green Star rated assets will be required to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets in line with the 1.5°C trajectory as set out in the Paris Agreement. YES NO
- 2 World leading assets awarded a Green Star rating must demonstrate that they have low energy demand. Assets will need to use 100% renewable energy and preferably have on-site, or access to precinct scale, solar and energy storage solutions. All emissions, including embodied carbon, will need to be reduced and offset. YES NO
- 3 Best practice assets awarded a Green Star rating must demonstrate that they have low energy demand. They will be encouraged to have solar and battery storage either on-site or at a precinct scale. Embodied carbon emissions will need to be reduced. YES NO
- 4 The scope of Green Star will be expanded to include resilience, social sustainability and human rights issues. Examples of issues to be introduced include inclusivity, accessibility, safety and affordability. YES NO
- 5 Green Star will also seek to influence social sustainability in the supply chain (e.g. to combat modern slavery) and its environmental impacts (e.g. the embodied carbon). YES NO
- 6 Green Star benchmarks for ecology, biodiversity, transport, health and wellbeing will be increased. YES NO
- 7 New conditional requirements will be introduced to achieve a Green Star rating. These will be in addition to the requirements for energy, land use and ecology, and will reflect sustainability attributes that all best practice sustainable assets must demonstrate. YES NO
- 8 Distinct star ratings will have additional requirements. That is, world leading buildings and precincts will have additional conditional requirements to that of best practice buildings and precincts. YES NO
- 9 Green Star rated assets must demonstrate their sustainability in operation. Ratings for all new buildings and fitouts will be conditional on a commitment to obtain a Green Star – Performance rating. If the Green Star – Performance rating is not achieved, the Green Star rating will expire. YES NO
- 10 World leading buildings and precincts will need to consider a whole-of-asset approach. Buildings must include tenant impacts. Precincts must include building impacts. YES NO
- ◆ **What other outcomes would you like to see as part of the update to Green Star?**

What's next?

This is the beginning of an extensive consultation program to develop the next phase of Green Star collaboratively with our members, wider industry and government stakeholders.

Provide feedback

We are inviting feedback by May 4th 2018. You can comment just on the issues raised in this paper by answering this [short survey](#), and/or:

Consider providing input via the more detailed Discussion Paper

The complementary Discussion Paper provides a further opportunity for you or your team to consider these changes in greater detail and provide a more comprehensive response to specific issues. The Discussion Paper will be released in April.

Explore our Carbon Positive Roadmap

Reducing our carbon emissions is critical to delivering a sustainable built environment. The GBCA's Carbon Positive Roadmap has been released in parallel with this paper and outlines our detailed plan for Green Star to help meet Australia's international commitments and keep global warming well below 2°C.

Attend a briefing

Industry briefings will be scheduled in capital cities around Australia in April and May.

Sign-up to our communications

Make sure you're signed up to receive our Green Building Voice newsletter, Green Star technical updates and other communications Plus, follow us on social media.

Nominate for an Expert Reference Panel

To support this consultation program we are inviting nominations to participate in Expert Reference Panels. They will be formed in the coming months to provide advice and feedback as we develop our proposal further. Visit our website www.gbca.org.au or email greenstar@gbca.org.au to find out more.

Request a briefing for your staff

We are happy to provide detailed briefings or gather feedback from your staff. Contact us at greenstar@gbca.org.au to request a briefing.

Support us

We are looking for sponsors to drive a new vision of the built environment. If you are interested, let us know at info@gbca.org.au

Stay tuned

A detailed consultation paper will be released later in 2018, and this will be followed by further industry engagement to develop Green Star credits, educational content and delivery of rating tools through late 2018 and early 2019.



Fifteen years of Green Star:

Since Green Star was founded in 2003, and Green Star – Communities in 2012, its impact has been transformational.



Green Star certified buildings, on average: produce **62%** fewer greenhouse gas emissions and use **66%** less electricity than the average building; **51%** less potable water than minimum industry requirements; and recycle **96%** of their construction and demolition waste.

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