Introducing Green Star
Together, we can build a sustainable future

October 2020

Green Building Council Australia
Introducing Green Star

Green Star is an internationally recognised sustainability rating system for the built environment.

From individual buildings to entire communities, Green Star is transforming the way our built environment is designed, constructed and operated.

Launched by Green Building Council of Australia in 2003, Green Star is Australia’s only national, voluntary rating system for buildings, fitouts and communities.

Our built environment is the world’s single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, it also consumes around a third of our water and generates 40 per cent of our waste. Green Star addresses this by helping to improve environmental efficiencies in our buildings, boosting productivity, creating jobs and improving the health and wellbeing of people and their communities.

Whether you’re a building owner, operator or occupant, creating a green community or looking to live more sustainably, Green Star offers a framework of best practice benchmarks for sustainability that you and the marketplace can trust.

“Green Star has introduced a new competitive dynamic that, these days, is often the difference between winning and losing business.”

Rob Coombs, Managing Director, Interface Asia Pacific
Certification you can trust

Our Green Star rating is independent verification that a project is sustainable. Undertaking Green Star certification demonstrates leadership, innovation, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Benefits of certification
A Green Star certification provides independent assurance that high standards across a range of sustainability categories have been met. Green Star uses registered certification trade marks approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

A certification trade mark indicates to consumers that a product or service meets a particular standard.

The use of a certification trade mark is governed by the Trade Marks Act 1995 which establishes clear requirements and processes to help ensure integrity and independence.

Green Star-certified projects can¹:
- Lower operating costs and increase asset value
- Use 66% less electricity than average Australian buildings
- Use 51% less potable water than the average Australian building built to meet minimum industry requirements
- Boost productivity due to better indoor environments
- Produce 55% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than average Australian buildings
- Improve the health and wellbeing of occupants
- Increase student learning and engagement
- Speed up recovery times of hospital patients
- Reduce risk and ‘future proof’ investments
- Deliver a competitive edge in a crowded marketplace

¹Green Star in focus – the business case, Green Building Council of Australia (2019)
Green Star fast facts

- 40% of CBD office space is Green Star certified
- 750,000 people working in Green Star rated offices
- 6% of the workforce head to a green office each day
- 800,000 people visit and head in Green Star certified hospitals each year including 370,000 inpatients plus 430,000 emergency outpatients
- 60,000 people live in Green Star rated apartments
- 40% of retail space is Green Star certified
- 1,300,000 people visit a Green Star rated shopping centre each day
- 6% of the workforce head to a green office each day
- 50% of ASX50 companies use Green Star
- 66% less consumption of electricity than the average building
- 51% less water than the average Australian building
- 795,000 people live or work in the 50+ certified Green Star communities including 455,000+ residents and 340,000 workers and students

Green Star emissions reductions

- 681 new buildings
- 15.3 million square metres of Green Star certified projects
- 55% average emissions reduction
- 840 million kgCO2e emissions avoided per year

This is equivalent to:

- 12,522,943 tree seedlings grown for 10 years
- 4,132 railcars worth of coal avoided
- 160,796 passenger vehicles driven for 1 year avoided
- 90,690 homes energy use for one year
Introducing Green Star

Building a sustainable future

Green Star continues to evolve and expand to meet the demands of industry. We are working hard to ensure that achieving Green Star certification is simple and cost-effective.

Green Star certification is possible for every new and existing building type. So whether your building is a school or a shopping centre, a hospital or a hotel, it can achieve a Green Star rating.

Green Star rating tools

- **Green Star Buildings and Green Star – Design & As Built**
  Guiding the sustainable design and construction of schools, offices, universities, industrial facilities, public buildings, retail centres and hospitals.

- **Green Star – Communities**
  Improving the sustainability of projects at the precinct or community scale.

- **Green Star – Interiors**
  Transforming the interior fitouts in everything from offices and hotels to bank branches and shops.

- **Green Star – Performance**
  Supporting higher levels of operational efficiency within existing buildings.

Green Star rating scale

Our tools use a rating scale to measure and reward projects that achieve best practice or above in their sustainability outcomes.

Green Star Buildings, Interiors and Communities certified projects can achieve a Green Star certification of 4 – 6 Star Green Star. Building operations assessed using the Green Star – Performance rating tool can achieve a Green Star rating of 1 – 6 Star Green Star.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Star Level</th>
<th>Minimum practice</th>
<th>Average practice</th>
<th>Good practice</th>
<th>Best practice</th>
<th>Australian excellence</th>
<th>World leadership</th>
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5 Martin Place, Dexus: 5 Star Green Star – Performance v1.2

Rewarding innovation

Green Star encourages industry innovation and sustainable leadership. All Green Star rating tools include an ‘Innovation’ category which rewards projects that implement new technologies and approaches or exceed current industry best practice.
Green Star categories

Green Star assesses and rates buildings, interiors and communities against a range of environmental impact categories that align with Sustainable Development Goals.

Green Star rating tools assess these categories for each project:

**Green Star Buildings**

- **Responsible**
  - Recognises activities that ensure the building is designed, procured, built and handed over in a responsible manner.
- **Healthy**
  - Promotes actions and solutions that improve the physical and mental health of occupants.
- **Resilient**
  - Encourages collaboration and engagement solutions that address short-term shocks and long-term stresses by improving the capacity of communities, businesses and assets to adjust, respond and thrive in the face of adversity.
- **Positive**
  - Makes a positive contribution towards better buildings by focusing on key environmental issues of carbon, water consumption and the impact of materials.
- **Places**
  - Supports the creation of safe, enjoyable, inclusive and comfortable places that are integrated into the broader urban fabric and enable communities to connect and thrive.
- **Nature**
  - Encourages active connections between people and nature and creates opportunities to deliver new natural corridors and green spaces in cities.
- **Leadership**
  - Recognises projects that set a strategic direction, build a vision for industry or enhance the industry’s capacity to innovate.
- **People**
  - Encourages solutions that address the social health of the community.

**Green Star – Communities**

- **Economic prosperity**
  - Aims to encourage and recognise projects that promote prosperity and productivity.
- **Environment**
  - Aims to reduce the impact of urban development on ecosystems. Encourages resource management and efficiency by promoting infrastructure, transport, and buildings, with reduced ecological footprints. Seeks to reduce the impacts of projects on land, water, and the atmosphere.
- **Governance**
  - Aims to encourage and recognise developers and projects that demonstrate leadership within the sector, by establishing and maintaining strong governance practices.
- **Livability**
  - Aims to encourage and recognise developments that deliver safe, accessible and culturally rich communities. Encourages the development of healthy and active lifestyles, and rewards communities that have a high level of amenity, activity, and inclusiveness.
- **Land use & ecology**
  - Aims to reduce the impact of urban development on ecosystems. Encourages resource management and efficiency by promoting infrastructure, transport, and buildings, with reduced ecological footprints. Seeks to reduce the impacts of projects on land, water, and the atmosphere.

**Green Star Design & As Built, Green Star – Interiors and Green Star – Performance**

- **Management**
  - Aims to encourage and reward the adoption of practices and processes that support best practice sustainability outcomes throughout the different phases of a project’s design, construction and ongoing operation.
- **Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ)**
  - Aims to encourage and reward initiatives that enhance the comfort and wellbeing of occupants. The credits within this category address issues such as air quality, thermal comfort and acoustic comfort.
- **Energy**
  - Aims to reward projects that are designed and constructed to reduce overall greenhouse emissions from operations by addressing energy demand reduction, use efficiency and generation from alternative sources.
- **Water**
  - Aims to encourage and reward initiatives that reduce the consumption of potable water through measures such as the incorporation of water efficient fixtures and building systems and water re-use.
- **Materials**
  - Aims to address the consumption of resources for the project, by encouraging the selection of low-impact materials.
- **Land use & ecology**
  - Aims to reward projects that minimise harm and enhance the quality of local ecologies.
- **Emissions**
  - Aims to assess the environmental impacts of ‘point source’ pollution generated by projects and reduce their effects on the atmosphere, watercourse and native animals.
- **Innovation**
  - Aims to recognise the implementation of innovative practices, processes and strategies that promote sustainability in the built environment.
Verification through certification

We aim to make your Green Star journey as simple as possible.

1. **Registration**
   Register your project with us to formally commit to the certification process. Only registered projects can say they are targeting a Green Star rating.

2. **Documentation submission**
   Your team will compile documentation needed to demonstrate that your building, fitout or community meets Green Star’s sustainability benchmarks. This documentation is then submitted to us for Green Star assessment.

3. **Assessment and certification**
   Green Star submissions are reviewed by an independent panel of sustainable development experts, usually over two rounds of assessment. A Green Star certified rating is awarded to your project as third-party verification of your project’s sustainability.

   Once your project is certified you can celebrate this achievement by promoting it within your networks with the Green Star certification trademark.

Green Star: with you for life

Our Green Star rating system assesses the sustainability of your project at all stages of its lifecycle.

From the infancy of architectural drawings and community development plans to the bricks and mortar of construction, the furniture and paints of its interior and the efficiency of its operations, Green Star will help you achieve the best sustainability outcomes.
Green Building Council of Australia is your source for up-to-date, high quality educational resources on Green Star and sustainability in the built environment.

We have a variety of online professional development options to expand and enrich your green skills. Whether it's an introductory course or in-depth technical instruction, Green Star professional development will give you and your team an extra edge.

Our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program offers a streamed approach to learning that caters to our industry's increasingly diverse and specialised skill development requirements.

Our Green Star Accredited Professional qualification signifies that you have technical knowledge, experience and credibility in the growing green building sector. There's no better business advantage in a competitive market.
We’re here to help

If you’d like to get more involved with Green Building Council of Australia, need some advice on Green Star or have an idea you’d like to share, contact our friendly team.

Contact us:
Telephone: +61 2 8239 6200
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