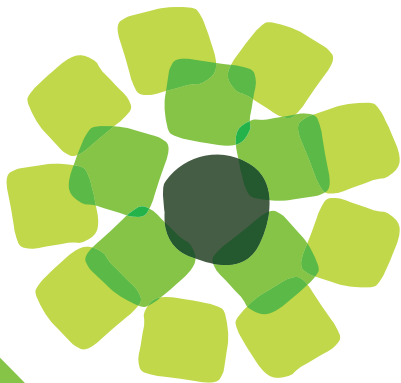
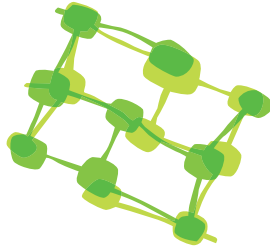


Green Star – Communities

Q&A



Q. What is the Green Star – Communities rating tool?

A. The Green Star – Communities rating tool, being developed by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), is Australia's first fully independent, national sustainability rating tool for communities. It is a voluntary rating tool which provides best practice benchmarks and third-party verification of the sustainability of communities and precinct wide developments.

Q. How is Green Star – Communities different to other sustainability tools in the market?

A. Currently, there is no national sustainability rating tool that provides development projects with an independently-verified single rating.

Q. What issues does Green Star – Communities cover?

A. The rating tool assesses in six categories: Liveability; Economic Prosperity; Environmental Responsibility; Design Excellence and Leadership; Governance; and Innovation. Within each category are a number of criteria that are allocated points. To gain points for a credit, a project team must complete documentation requirements that demonstrate they have met the aims of the credit. The points assigned to each credit are tallied and translated into an overall single Green Star rating.

Q. How do I access the tool?

A. Once released, the tool will be available online and will be supported by a detailed technical manual.

Q. What does Green Star – Communities assess?

A. It assesses the documentation associated with projects that are defined by a plan (including supporting documentation), whether it be a master plan, structure plan, neighbourhood plan, centre plan, renewal plan or something similar.

Q. What type of projects will Green Star – Communities rate?

A. The word 'communities' can be interpreted in a variety of ways, and the rating tool acknowledges this by containing credits that are applicable to precinct, neighbourhood, place, centre and city-type development projects.

Q. How are projects rated?

A. Project teams will apply the tool to their projects and compile the necessary documentation as evidence that performance is achieved. Independent assessors will then undertake a review of project documentation and recommend a final rating to the GBCA. The GBCA will then award a rating for the project.

Q. When will Green Star – Communities be available to the market?

A. The pilot version of the rating tool will be released in mid-2012. A range of projects will be tested, before a 'version 1' tool is released.

Q. Who manages and maintains Green Star – Communities?

A. The Green Building Council of Australia led the process which gathered a large group of industry and government stakeholders together to identify best practice performance benchmarks and determine the points allocated to each. The GBCA constructed the tool and will manage the ongoing administration, such as updates, registrations, education and certification.

Q. How can I become involved in Green Star – Communities?

A. Visit the Green Star – Communities website: www.greenstarcommunities.org.au, contact the Green Star – Communities Project Leader, Adam Beck, on 0410 506 043 or adam.beck@gbca.org.au