RATING TOOL FACT SHEET: GREEN STAR - EDUCATION

green star™ environmental rating system for buildings — Education v1

™green building council australia

STATUS: VERSION 1 (V1) RELEASED AUGUST 2008

About the Rating Tool

The Green Star – Education v1 rating tool assesses the environmental attributes of new and refurbished education facilities in every State across Australia.

The tool can assign a Green Star rating to the education facility on the basis of design potential.

The Green Star - Education v1 rating tool was developed to assess the entire building through to fitout, as education facilities are delivered as integrated fitouts. This differentiates it from other Green Star rating tools, which address base building and fitout separately. The tool can also be used to rate the environmental merits of an education facility at post-construction phase (known as As Built).

The intended audience for the Green Star – Education v1 rating tool consists primarily of state governments and owners of private education facilities. The tool enables these parties to minimise the environmental impacts of their developments and to capitalise on, and receive recognition for, their design initiatives.

Tool Development Process

The Green Star – Education v1 rating tool is the result of a collaboration between the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) staff and a Technical Working Group (TWG), a voluntary group of environmental and education industry professionals, with specific advice from industry experts.

The TWG was convened for an intensive three month period of 2006 during which time the environmental impacts of education facilities were discussed. The structure and contents of credits to address these issues were developed and calculators were assembled to be included in the Energy and Water categories.

The tool was then launched in its PILOT form in 2007 allowing industry to test it and provide feedback to the GBCA.

At the start of the PILOT period sponsors, GBCA members and the industry had the opportunity to nominate projects to go through Green Star assessment and receive a PILOT certified rating. The PILOT projects provided valuable feedback to inform the final version of the tool. (For more information about certified PILOT projects, please visit the GBCA website: www@gbca.org.au)

Version 1 of the tool is influenced by the volume and type of feedback received during the PILOT phase; not only from PILOT projects but also from other industry stakeholders.

After the PILOT period, the GBCA collated stakeholder feedback. This process is now complete and the rating tool has evolved into Version 1. Stakeholder feedback, and GBCA responses, can be viewed at the GBCA website.

Key Attributes

The Green Star – Education v1 rating tool has many credits in common with the other Green Star tools available but has also been made unique to the education sector.

The following is a list of the key 'sector specific' credits that differentiate the Green Star – Education v1 rating tool from other Green Star tools:

- [Buildings as a] Learning Resource;
- Maintainability;
- Unoccupied Areas;
- Stairs;
- Efficient External Lighting;
- Centralised Energy Systems;
- Transport Design and Planning;
- Potable Water Use in Laboratories;
- Recycled Content & Reused Products and Materials;
- Flooring;
- Joinery; and
- Loose Furniture.

Another major difference is a customised energy calculator for the education sector. While the Green Star – Office suite of rating tools incorporates the NABERS Energy Rating, an equivalent does not exist for the education sector.

The GBCA worked with the tool sponsors and other industry representatives in research which resulted in the customised Energy Calculator, Energy Calculator Benchmark Methodology document, and the Energy Calculator Guide.

The Green Star – Education v1 Energy Calculator assesses all education facilities equitably, independent of size or location, based on their predicted greenhouse gas emissions during operation

Ongoing Feedback

The GBCA encourages industry to provide feedback on the Green Star rating tools at any stage of the tool, to assist us in continuously monitoring and updating the rating tools to ensure they remain relevant and robust.

Certification

As with all Green Star rating tools, only eligible projects can be certified. The Green Star – Education v1 rating tool will award certified ratings as follows:

4 Star Green Star Certified Rating
Weighted score of 45-59
Signifies 'Best Practice'

5 Star Green Star Certified Rating
Weighted score of 60-74
Signifies 'Australian Excellence'

6 Star Green Star Certified Rating
Weighted score of 75-100
Signifies 'World Leadership'

The rating tools have been developed to be equitable across building sectors. In other words, a 5 Star Green Star – Education v1 project will exhibit a degree of industry leadership comparable to that of a 5 Star Green Star – Office v3 project.

Environmental Impact Categories

Green Star rating tools consist of eight environmental impact categories and an innovation category (see list over). Credits are awarded within each of the categories based on the building's potential to minimise its environmental impact in a range of key areas.

Please note that the Green Star – Education v1 rating tool takes into consideration the unique development requirements and impacts of the education sector. As such, the number of credits within categories and the category weightings vary from other Green Star rating tools.

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The table below outlines each category within the Green Star – Education v1 rating tool.

Management
- Green Star Accredited Professional
- Commissioning Clauses
- Building Tuning
- Independent Commissioning Agent
- Building Guide
- Environmental Management
- Waste Management
- Learning Resource
- Maintainability

Indoor Environment Quality
- Ventilation Rates
- Air Change Effectiveness
- Carbon Dioxide Monitoring and Control and VOC Monitoring
- Daylight
- Thermal Comfort
- Hazardous Materials
- Internal Noise Levels
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Formaldehyde Minimisation
- Mould Prevention
- Daylight Glare Control
- High Frequency Ballasts
- Electric Lighting Levels
- External Views

Energy
- Energy - Conditional Requirement
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Energy Sub-metering
- Peak Energy Demand Reduction
- Lighting Zoning
- Unoccupied Areas
- Stairs
- Efficient External Lighting
- Shared Energy Systems

Transport
- Provision of Car Parking
- Fuel Efficient Transport
- Cyclist Facilities
- Commuting Mass Transport
- Transport Design and Planning

Water
- Occupant Amenity Water
- Water Meters
- Landscape Irrigation
- Heat Rejection Water
- Fire System Water
- Potable Water Use in Laboratories

Materials
- Recycling Waste Storage
- Building Reuse
- Recycled-Content & Reused Products and Materials
- Concrete
- Steel
- PVC Minimisation
- Sustainable Timber
- Design for Disassembly
- Flooring
- Joinery
- Loose Furniture

Land Use & Ecology
- Ecology – Conditional Requirement
- Topsoil
- Reuse of Land
- Reclaimed Contaminated Land
- Ecological Value of Site

Emissions
- Refrigerant ODP
- Refrigerant GWP
- Refrigerant Leaks
- Insulant ODP
- Watercourse Pollution
- Discharge to Sewer
- Light Pollution
- Legionella

Innovation
- Innovative Strategies & Technologies
- Exceeding Green Star Benchmarks
- Exceeding Green Star Scope

Category Weightings

Management	10%
IEQ	20%
Energy	25%
Transport	10%
Water	15%
Materials	10%
Land Use & Ecology	5%
Emissions	5%
TOTAL:	100%

Sponsors:

Department for Administrative and Information Services (SA Govt.)	Platinum
QLD Department of Public Works (QLD Govt.)	Gold