

RISING STARS OF GREEN STAR



GRAHAM AGAR

Associate Director, AECOM
Worked on Parkland Road
Office Building, Perth
4 Star Green Star – Office Design v2

Hot tip: "Read the technical manual!
If you get stuck, then read the manual.
If you really can't get the documentation
required, then read the manual. If all else
fails then read the manual."

Future winner: "ESD consultants will
be appointed at the feasibility and planning
stage and will be retained by the building
owner as independent advisors throughout
the design, construction and tuning stages.
This will help to ensure that buildings are
designed, perform and are maintained to
their ultimate potential."

How do you achieve Green Star certification for a project in just one round of assessment? Our 'Rising Stars' know, with each having prepared a successful submission that resulted in a Green Star rating in Round One.

We asked our Rising Stars for their hot tips for achieving Green Star certification, and for their insights into emerging trends, technologies or approaches that are shaping up to be 'future winners' for Australia's sustainable built environment.

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ROCKY SLATER

Design Manager, Built Environs Pty Ltd
Worked on Worldpark Adelaide
Building, Adelaide
5 Star Green Star – Office As Built v2

Hot tips: "A robust and comprehensive in-house Green Star management system that breaks each credit down into individual components is a must. Each component or task must be assigned to a person responsible. Maintain a dialogue with your case manager, as they are eager to assist you to achieve the best certification results possible. Keep abreast of GBCA updates and improvements, both online and through the e-newsletter. Go to relevant conferences and maintain involvement in the CPD program. And remain flexible!"

Future winner: "Expect to see fully lifecycled building materials, where the project team can select a product and understand the complete history of where the raw materials were sourced – both recycled and raw products."



REBECCA BREUER

ESD and Mechanical Engineer, Aurecon
Worked on the EPA Victoria office
fitout, Melbourne
6 Star Green Star – Office Interiors v1.1

Hot tip: "Be clear, succinct and to the point in demonstrating compliance – that is, only submit what is asked for in the technical manual, nothing more."

Future winner: "The pressure on organisations to demonstrate that they are operating their businesses responsibly has increased and will continue to increase. This leads to greater attention on the sustainable operations of facilities and is driving efficiencies that have not previously been tapped across a wide range of build types and locations."



LYNDON CHRISTIAN

ESD/Services Team Leader,
Hutchinson Builders
Worked on 53 Albert Street, Brisbane
4 Star Green Star – Office Design v2

Hot tip: "Ensuring that you have all parties engaged within the agreed design and delivery process from Day One is critical. Providing the teams with clear and concise direction to ensure they meet criteria guidelines is also important. A peer review from an external Green Star Accredited Professional allows a fresh set of eyes to review the package in its complete form prior to submission. This can sometimes identify the simplest of mistakes made by the team across related target credits."

Future winner: "Designs that include high performance façades, onsite generation such as solar and gas fired systems, rainwater harvesting and water treatment, high-efficiency HVAC systems and electrical equipment, best practice control systems and commissioning are the basis for achieving ongoing reductions in building operational costs." ▶

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RAY CHUNG

Senior ESD/Mechanical Engineer,
Floth Pty Ltd
Worked on CSR Trinita Project, Sydney
5 Star Green Star – Office Interiors v1.1

Hot tip: "Make the documentation as clear and relevant as possible. Having a team that understands Green Star is also paramount – especially the client and the builder."

Future winner: "My idea of winning – both now and in the future – is having the right philosophy and setting the right, realistically-achievable goals, then communicating those goals with stakeholders and seeing it through."



THORSTEN PADEFFKE

Discipline Leader ESD, Irwinconsult Pty Ltd
Worked on DEEWR fitout, Darwin
4 Star Green Star – Office Interiors v1.1

Hot tip: "Concentrate on the three C's of communication, coordination and control. Communication is imperative; the information flow between the Green Star Accredited Professional and consultant team should be precise, to the point and responsive. Any uncertainties within the submission should be clarified with the GBCA through TCs or CIRs – do not second-guess. Coordination of responsibilities for Green Star evidence should occur early in the process, followed by regular submission workshops. Quality control of Green Star evidence is also important – assessors have very little time for each credit so the relevant information needs to be easy to find and correctly worded."

Future winner: "Building biology, the scientific study of the holistic interrelationships between humans and the built environment, is an emerging trend. While it is well established in Europe it is still regarded as a fringe division of ESD in Australia. Essentially an extension of the Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ) category, it examines material toxicity, electromagnetic radiation, indoor air pollutants and comfort."



MATT PONTIN

Director, EMF Griffiths
Worked on The Rocket, South East Queensland
4 Star Green Star – Office Design v2

Hot tip: "Green Star certification is all about team work and attention to detail. Our role is to make sure everyone is aware of the significance of the details and to make the process as painless as possible for those involved. If the requirements are clearly communicated and understood, the team stands a good chance of Round One success."

Future winner: "Thinking outside the air-conditioned box! So much energy is expended on delivering conditions that satisfy leasing terms, rather than scientifically delivering comfort conditions. If we can challenge the accepted norms, we can then start to look at mainstream application of natural and mixed-mode ventilation."



ANITA PURSER

Project Engineer, Irwinconsult Pty Ltd
Worked on Surf Coast Shire Civic Building,
Regional Victoria
5 Star Green Star – Office Design v3

Hot tip: "Locking in design principles and sufficient detail at the end of design development is paramount. This way, the whole team is clear as to what they should be including in their documentation. If this doesn't happen then it is almost impossible to get a good result in Round One."

Future winner: "Environmental building upgrades are already a hot topic among building design professionals, and are now being recognised by building owners. More work needs to be done, though, to convince building owners that environmental building upgrades also make financial sense."



DHVANIT SHAH

Sustainability Team Leader, JBA Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd
Worked on DEEWR fitout, Darwin
4 Star Green Star – Office Interiors v1.1

Hot tips: "I see Green Star as a strict auditing process. I make sure that all the essential information is provided in Round One by consulting all discipline consultants. I provide consultants who are new to the submission process with templates of contracts and sample consultant briefs. This makes my part easy. PDF bookmarks and highlighting make for easy-to-read submissions. I have received several good comments from different assessors for this technique."

Future winner: "Super-efficient lighting layout, installation of co-generation plants and energy-efficient air conditioning systems such as under floor air distribution and chilled beams are the future winners in my opinion."



MARK TICKLE

Project Manager, Grocon
Worked on Monash University's 370 Docklands Drive, Melbourne
5 Green Star – Office Design v2

Hot tip: "The secret is being thorough, clear and concise in the compilation of the submission documentation and addressing each deliverable individually – and providing only the documentation required."

Future winner: "Green Star and other building rating systems have driven a considerable improvement in sustainable design, regardless of whether buildings are rated or not. This trend will continue, as awareness of sustainability grows, both within the construction industry and with building occupants."



HANNAH BLOSSOM

Associate Director, Irwinconsult Pty Ltd
Worked on Surf Coast Shire Civic Building, Regional Victoria
5 Star Green Star – Office Design v3

Hot tip: "It's all in the detail. We focus on ensuring coordination across all disciplines. Once the team has completed the submission to its satisfaction, we undertake an internal review before submitting to the GBCA. Consistency across credits is a big focus in this process."

Future winner: "The time will have to come, eventually, when we start to consider energy more holistically – including embodied energy of construction materials. This is some time away, but it's coming."



LE HAN TAN

Principal Mechanical Engineer, AECOM
Worked on 8 Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney
4 Star Green Star – Office Design v2

Hot tip: "Try to make things as easy as possible for the Green Star assessor by directing them to the appropriate information. Where necessary, include additional descriptive diagrams to simplify understanding of complex drawings and systems. Only include the necessary documentation requested in the technical manual and TCs."

Future winner: "I think smart and adaptive building facade systems are a future winner." ●

