greenstar

Green Building Council Australia

Green Star Communities v2

Industry summary

Version control

The content of this presentation is accurate as of 14 May 2026. Green Building Council of Australia reserves the right to make changes to the content without notice.

The latest version is available to download from the **Green Star resource portal.**

Using this presentation

This presentation has been prepared for industry use to support communication about the Green Star Communities v2 rating tool and promote the benefits of Green Star.

The slides may be used in full or individual slides may be extracted; however, content must not be modified or reproduced out of context without permission from GBCA. This helps ensure the rating tool is communicated accurately to industry.

For questions about the content or to request a member of the Market Engagement team to present to a team, please contact **meteam@gbca.org.au.**

About GBCA

Green Building Council Australia

Established in 2002, Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is the nation's authority on sustainable buildings, communities and cities. Our vision is for healthy, resilient and positive places for people.

Our purpose is to lead the sustainable transformation of the built environment. GBCA represents more than 650 individual companies with a combined annual turnover of more than $60 billion.

Foreword

Davina Rooney
Chief Executive Officer

The first version of Green Star – Communities, released in 2012, forced industry to radically consider the significant impacts that precincts have on our cities, not just from an environmental perspective, but also from a social and economic one.

It was the first Green Star rating tool to move past its roots, and one that rewarded concepts like climate resilience and adaptation considerations, a novel concept at the time for the built environment.

Since then, the issues that impact our built environment have become more pronounced – climate action, nature and biodiversity, even issues of equity and inclusion, the expectations from Australians are higher than ever before, and our built environment must respond to this.

The Future Focus program was designed with this in mind, to aim high and ensure these trends are reflected in Green Star. Thanks to the work of close to 200 professionals, and the more than 60 precincts that have already been rated with the current tool, we believe this update will be as meaningful as that of the original release.

Nick Alsop
Senior Manager – Buildings, Precincts & Homes

Green Star Communities has significantly shaped a diverse range of projects, from airports and universities to urban renewals and green residential developments, bringing substantial benefits to their inhabitants. Now, we're enhancing our rating tool.

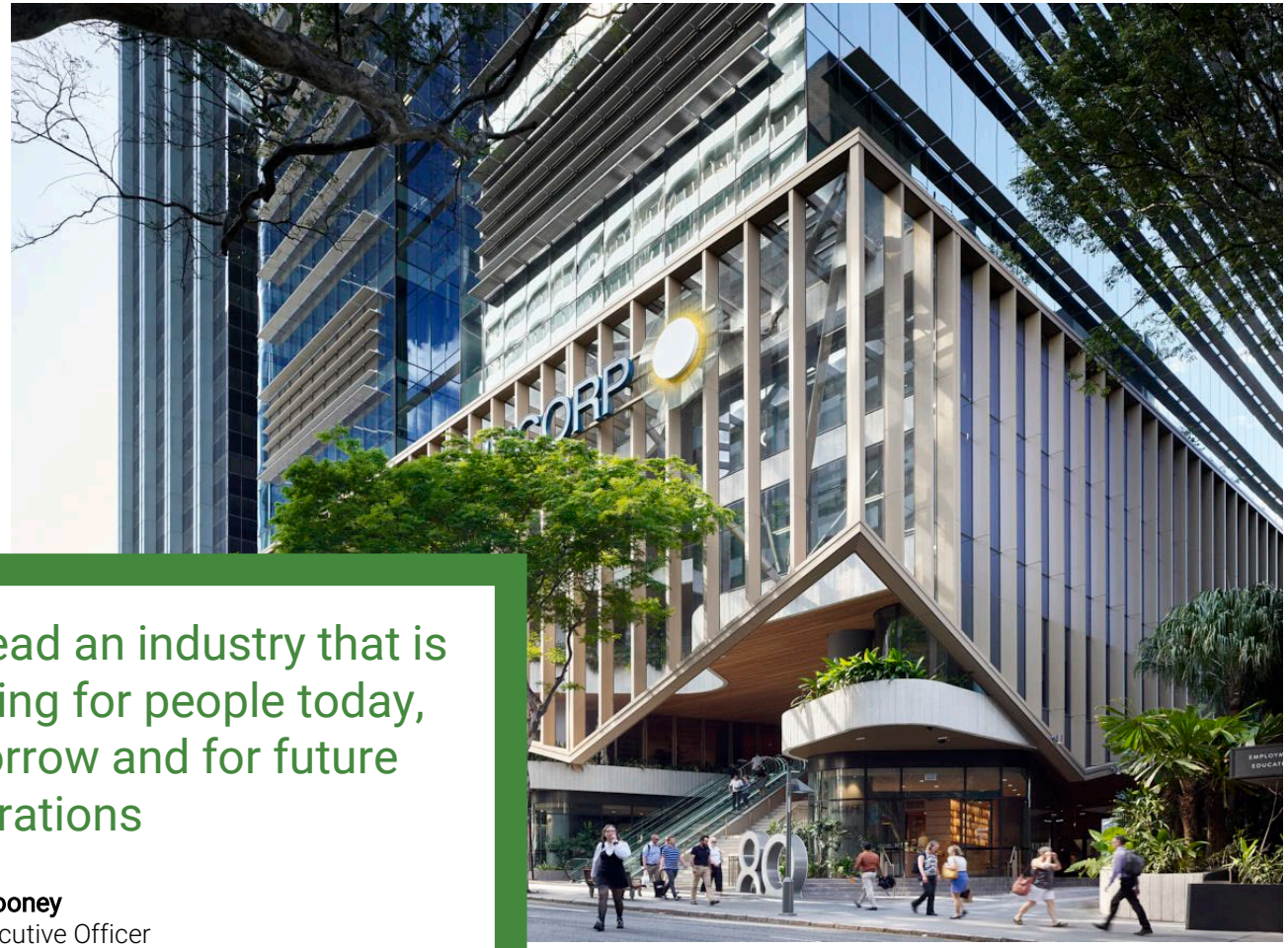
Drawing from feedback received during the tool's 2019 consultation stage, we've crafted a draft tool as part of our Future Focus program, aligning with the input from our Expert Reference Panels and other contributors, led by the Sustainable Precincts ERP.

Green Star Communities V2 offers a more ambitious scope. It addresses priorities for investors, governments, and communities, demanding more from users while facilitating stakeholder collaboration. It focuses on the integration of buildings, communities, cities, and the critical infrastructure that wraps around it to form the built environment. Through an annual certification process it provides assurance of results and strengthens the Green Star brand's credibility.

Our ambition is high: to ensure Green Star rated precincts are set up for success in the upcoming decade and beyond. We believe this draft tool can accomplish it, but we need your input. We invite you to voice your opinion through this paper, in separate written form, or in our workshops and briefings. Your feedback is vital in shaping this tool for the future.

Who is Green Building Council of Australia?

Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is a world-renowned organisation dedicated to transforming the built environment.



We lead an industry that is building for people today, tomorrow and for future generations

Davina Rooney
Chief Executive Officer
Green Building Council of Australia

About Green Star

Founded by the GBCA in 2003, Green Star is an internationally recognised **rating system** setting the standard for **healthy, resilient,** and **positive buildings, fitouts, communities,** and **homes** in Australia.

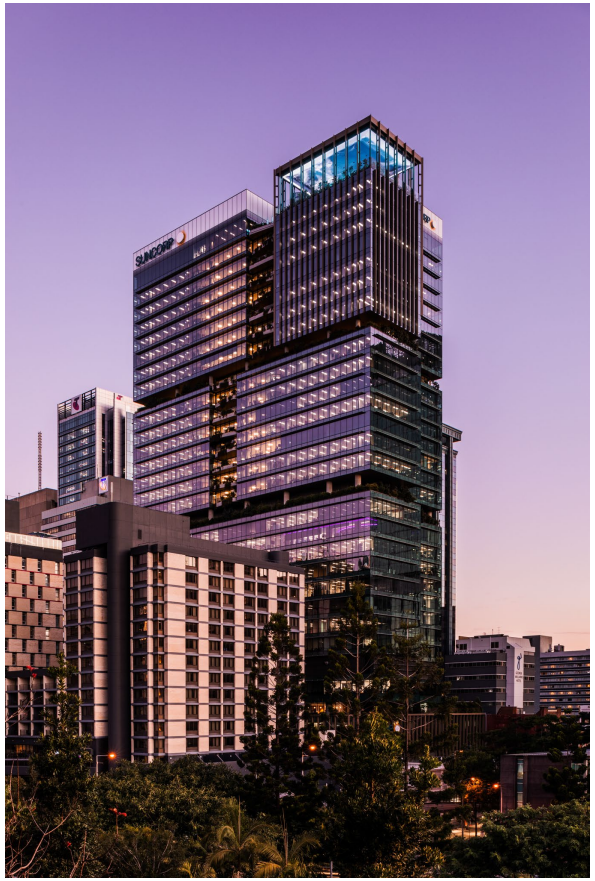
Green Star's mission is to lead the sustainable transformation of the built environment. The Green Star rating tools aim to achieve this by encouraging practices that:

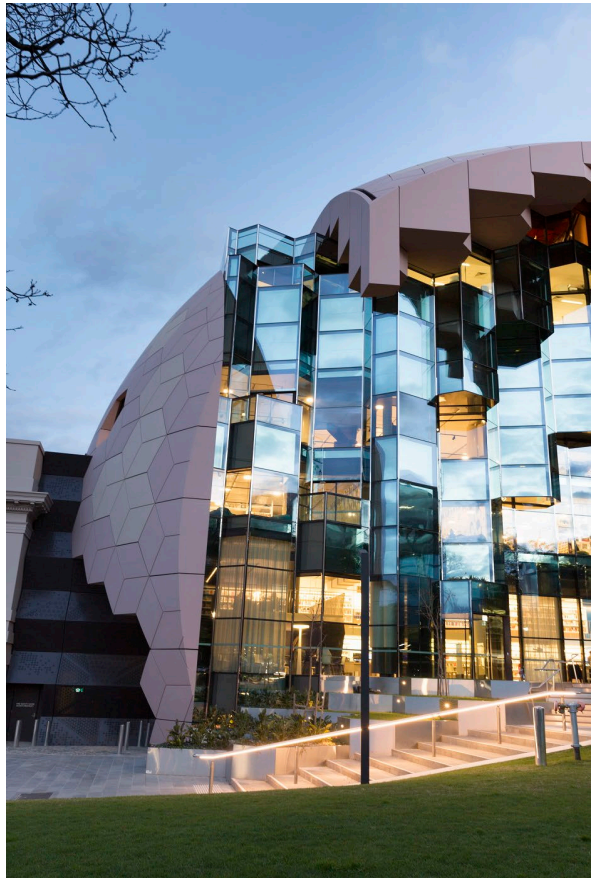
- Reduce the impact of climate change
- Enhance health and quality of life
- Restore and protect our planet's biodiversity and ecosystems
- Drive resilient outcomes for buildings, fitouts, communities and homes
- Contribute to market transformation and a sustainable economy

Arup Head Office, NSW 6 Star Green Star – Interiors v1.1

Green Star sets the standard for Australia

From libraries to hotels and from offices to the biggest regeneration projects in the country, Green Star certification drives the creation of healthy, resilient, and positive places for people and nature.





greenstar

Certification you can trust

- Certified projects are awarded a rating by an independent, third-party assessor.
- GBCA maintains a quality management system in line with ISO 9001:2015 standards.
- Only certified projects can use the Green Star trade mark, ensuring credibility and integrity.

Certified System™
Quality
ISO 9001
SAI GLOBAL

Built with industry

The Green Star Advisory Board and supporting advisory groups ensure the Green Star rating system continues to be Australia's leading rating tool for the built environment.

Green Star Advisory Board

Rob Clarke
ACOR Consultants and GBCA Director (Chair)

Emma Herd
EY

Sarah Slattery
Slattery

Sonia Auld
QIC

David Jones
Western Power

James Wewer
Lendlease

Michael Di Russo
CEFC

Samantha Peart
Hassell

Technical Advisory Group

Sam Peart – Hassell (Chair)
Daniel Andjelic – Lendlease
David Collins – Cundall
Brad Crowley – NZGBC
Tom Dean – Slattery
Clare Gallagher – Clare Gallagher
Alexander Hespe – Arup
Anne Kovachevich – Mott MacDonald
Evalin Ling – Laing O'Rourke
David Mahony – HIP V. HYPE

Industry Advisory Group

Sonia Auld – QIC (Chair)
Andrew Cole – Charter Hall
Steve Colomb – Dexus
Lisa Hinde – Precinct Properties, NZGBC
Keith Lucas – Sentinel Fund Manager Australia
Megan Lupton – NSW Dept of Education
Natasha Mulcahy – CBRE
Nikki Paton – Salta Properties
Leigh Penney – Arcadis
Lucy Sharman – Landcom
Peter Vanderaa – Queensland Treasury

Responsible Products Advisory Group

Sarah Slattery – Slattery (Chair)
Yingbin Feng – Western Sydney University
Cyril Giraud – Holcim
Owen Grace – Multiplex
Cathy Inglis – Brickworks Building Products
Dave Moolman – Shaw Contractors
Philippa Stone – BlueScope
Nicole Sullivan – thinkstep-anz

Homes Advisory Panel

Adam Selvay – Metricon
Ben Brazier – Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Matthew Napper – Ingenia Communities
Mark Taylor – Hesperia
Anthony Wright – CSIRO

Guided by experts

Expert Reference Panels support the technical development of the rating tools, ensuring Green Star remains rigorous, relevant, and future-focused.

Strategic direction

Sustainable Precincts

Supports the implementation of, and transition to, Green Star Communities v2, as well with development of resources for integrating its outcomes in planning policy.

Subject matter expertise

Resilience

Delivers advice on issues related to climate change adaptation and resilience practices, community resilience, infrastructure resilience, and other emerging issues.

People and wellbeing

Advices on matters related to the crossover of buildings and physical health and wellbeing, as well as issues related to mental, social, and community health and human rights issues.

Responsible procurement and manufacturing

Assists with topics related to improving the supply chain, procurement practices, products and materials, embodied carbon, and the responsible product framework.

Nature and biodiversity

Provides input into areas related to nature conservation, biodiversity enhancement, connectivity, and off-site restoration activities.

Energy and carbon

Provides input into the topics of energy consumption, energy sources, and operational carbon emissions.

Influenced by global drivers

The rating tools have been influenced by global movements and initiatives.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Global Risks Report 2021

GRESB

IPCC report on climate change 2022

International Sustainability Standards Board

Carbon-risk real estate monitor (CRREM)

Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures

EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance

Science-based Targets Initiative

Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure

International Capital Market Association

- The Green Bond Principles
- The Social Bond Principles
- The Sustainability Bond Guidelines
- Climate Transition Finance
- The Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles

Shaped in response to global trends

The rating tools have been developed to address the critical sustainability megatrends of the next decade.

1 Net zero emissions
2 Climate resilience
3 Embodied carbon
4 Circular economy
5 Nature & biodiversity
6 Water cycle
7 Health and wellbeing
8 People and equity
9 Community resilience

Reshaping Green Star for the future

In March 2018, GBCA embarked on an ambitious journey to reshape the Green Star rating system and bring you the next evolution of the tools – Green Star Future Focus.

Green Star Buildings

V1.1 available now

a rating tool for the design and construction of new buildings and major refurbishments

Green Star Homes

V1 available now

a standard for individual houses based on standard designs delivered by volume home builders

Green Star Performance

V2 available now

a rating tool for the operational performance of existing buildings

Green Star Communities

V2 available now

a rating tool for the design and delivery of master planned communities and precincts

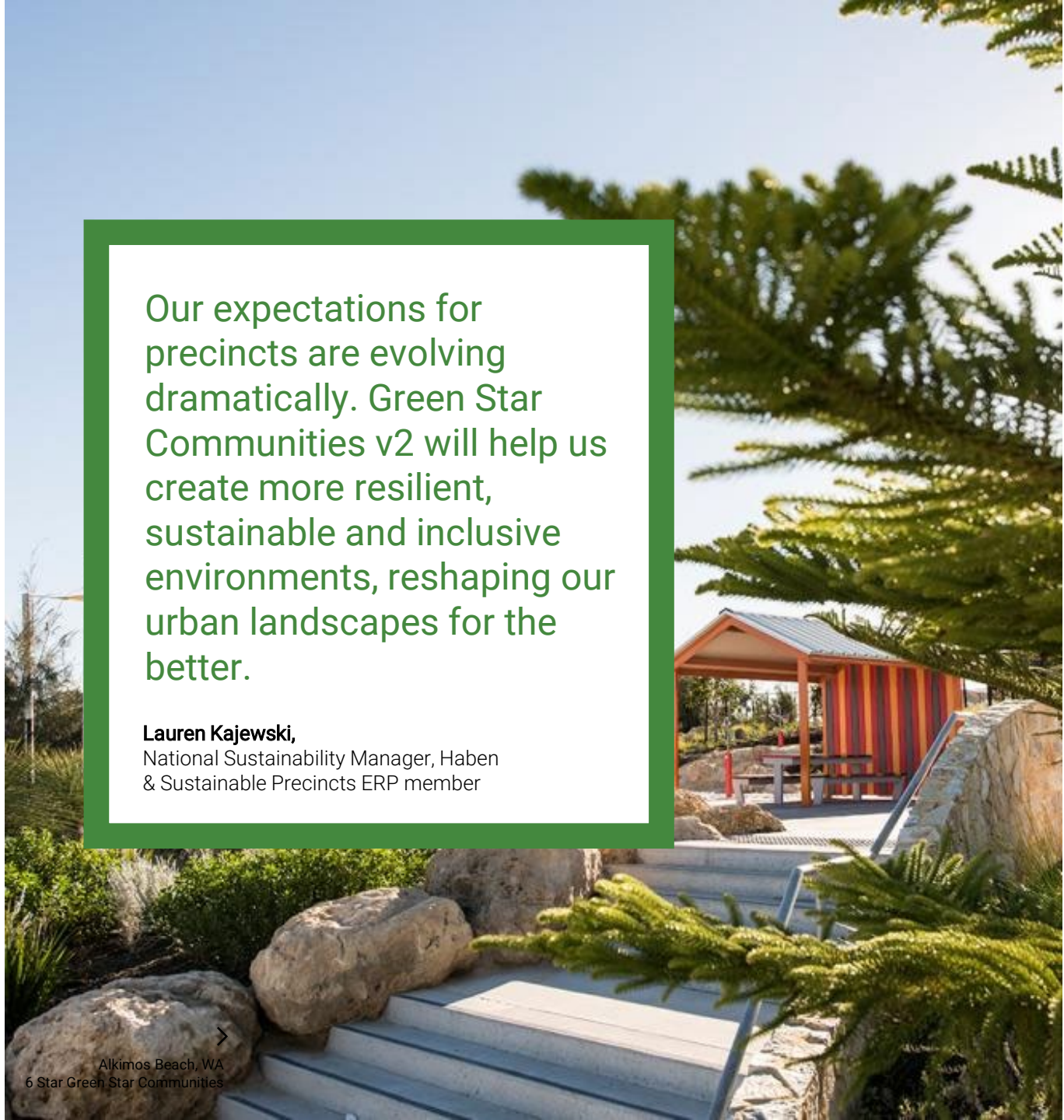
Green Star Fitouts

V1 available now

a rating tool for the design and construction of new interior fitouts and major fitout refurbishments

Green Star Communities

A holistic rating tool to guide the sustainable planning, design and delivery of master planned precincts and communities.



Our expectations for precincts are evolving dramatically. Green Star Communities v2 will help us create more resilient, sustainable and inclusive environments, reshaping our urban landscapes for the better.

Lauren Kajewski,
National Sustainability Manager, Haben
& Sustainable Precincts ERP member

Alkimos Beach, WA
6 Star Green Star Communities

Five key things to know about Green Star Communities v2

1

Establishes **a new definition of sustainable precincts**

2

Drives **future-ready infrastructure and buildings**

3

Responds to global **climate and nature goals**

4

Delivers value for **multiple precinct typologies and scales.**

5

Rewards outcomes through a **flexible certification process**

Star rating scale

Green Star Communities v2 redefines best practice and world leadership, recognised through its star rating scale

Green Star Communities categories

Responsible

Ensures the precinct is planned, designed and constructed to a high standard.

Healthy

Promotes initiatives that improve the physical and mental health of the community.

Resilient

Strengthens the community's capacity to mitigate, adapt and respond to shocks and long-term stressors.

Positive

Provides a pathway for precincts to minimise carbon emissions from materials and energy consumption.

Places

Supports the creation of accessible, safe, and vibrant places that respect connections to Country.

People

Embraces the diversity of people, experiences and perspectives that contribute to the community.

Nature

Safeguards ecosystems by protecting, restoring and enhancing nature.

Leadership

Recognises projects that set a strategic direction, build a vision for industry, or enhance the industry's capacity to innovate.

Minimum Expectations

Green Star Communities v2 introduces *Minimum Expectations* within select credits to ensure all projects meet the following foundational outcomes:

- Have no significant negative impacts to sensitive sites or species on site or near site.
- Are fossil-fuel free, energy efficient and built with lower upfront carbon.
- Prioritise active transport and access to amenities.
- Are water efficient and drought resilient.
- Reduce extreme risks from climate impacts.
- Embrace and celebrate the diversity of the population.
- Drive supply chain transformation through responsible material procurement.
- Provide safe, comfortable outdoor places.
- Have low impact construction processes and minimise waste.
- Take care of the workforce.

Credits

Green Star Communities v2 rewards a variety of outcomes across multiple credits.

Responsible

- Industry Development
- Responsible Construction Practices
- Responsible Procurement
- Responsible Services Infrastructure
- Responsible Civil Works
- Responsible Public Realm Hardware
- Efficient Waste Management
- Sustainable Buildings

Healthy

- Outdoor Comfort
- Healthy Communities
- Healthy Buildings

Resilient

- Resilience Readiness
- Climate Resilience
- Operational Resilience
- Community Resilience
- Heat Resilience
- Energy Resilience
- Water Resilience

Positive

- Fully Electric
- Powered by Renewables
- Efficient Infrastructure
- Positive Buildings
- Upfront Carbon Reduction
- Upfront Carbon Compensation
- Life Cycle Impacts

Places

- Design with Country
- Density and Amenity
- Safe Places
- Streets for People
- Active Transport
- Public Transport
- Low-Emission Transport

People

- Design for Equity
- First Nations Inclusion
- Procurement & Workforce Inclusion
- Inclusive Site Practices
- Economic Inclusion
- Affordable Housing

Nature

- Sensitive Site Protection
- Impacts to Nature
- Biodiversity Enhancement
- Nature Connectivity
- Integrated Water Management
- Nature Stewardship
- Design for Wildlife

Leadership

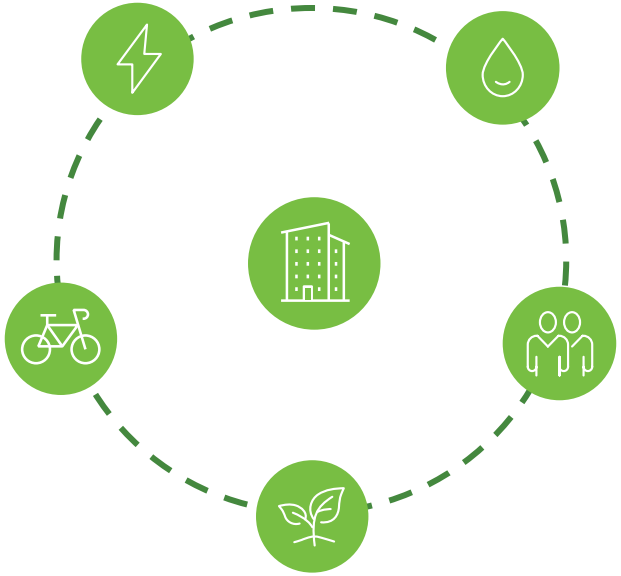
- Market Transformation
- Leadership Challenges

Credits highlighted in green include a Minimum Expectation.

Driving future-ready infrastructure and buildings

Green Star Communities v2 ensures precincts are built for the future—powered by renewables, connected by sustainable transport, and resilient in the face of climate change.

Precincts shape the buildings within them. Green Star Communities v2 aims to incentivise projects to deliver sustainable, positive, healthy and affordable buildings within them.



Climate Positive Pathway in Green Star Communities v2

Fossil fuel free

Fully Electric

Buildings and infrastructure in the precinct do not use fossil fuels

Powered by renewables

Powered by Renewables

Buildings and infrastructure in the precinct are powered by renewable energy sources.

Highly efficient

Efficient Infrastructure

Positive Buildings

The infrastructure that services the precinct is energy efficient, and buildings are water and energy efficient.

Lower upfront emissions

Upfront Carbon Reduction

The precinct's upfront carbon emissions from materials, products and construction practices have been reduced and offset.

Climate Positive Pathway in Green Star Communities v2

Credit	Criteria		2025*	2027*	2030*
Fully Electric	Minimum Expectation	• Fossil fuel free new buildings and infrastructure • Zero carbon action plan for existing	All registrations		
Powered by Renewables	Minimum Expectation	• Precinct developer operated buildings and infrastructure use renewable energy	All registrations		
Efficient Infrastructure	Minimum Expectation	• Energy efficient infrastructure design • Existing infrastructure plan	All registrations		
Positive Buildings	Minimum Expectation	• Efficient developer delivered buildings + display buildings • Design guidelines for all buildings	All registrations		
Upfront Carbon Reduction	Minimum Expectation	• 10% upfront carbon reduction	All registrations		
	Credit Achievement (3pt)	• 20% upfront carbon reduction • Demolition works offset		All registrations	
	Exceptional Performance (+3pt)	• 40% upfront carbon reduction			All registrations

*Denotes year of registration

Nature Positive Pathway in Green Star Communities v2

Prevent nature loss

Sensitive Site Protection

The precinct does not significantly impact sensitive sites or sensitive species.

Increase and connect nature

Biodiversity Enhancement

Biodiversity in the precinct is maintained and enhanced.

Nature Positive Pathway in Green Star Communities v2

From 2027, the Nature Positive Pathway requires projects to maintain and enhance biodiversity over time, with requirements that increase based on star rating and registration date.

Credit	Requirement		2025	2027	2030	2033
Sensitive Site Protection	ME	Protect sensitive sites and species	All registrations			
Biodiversity Enhancement	CA	Greenfield: No net loss | Other: 10% net gain (3pts)		5 Star	All registrations	
	EP	Greenfield: 10% net gain | Other: 20% net gain (+3pts)		6 Star	5 Star	All registrations

*Denotes year of registration

Delivering value for multiple precinct typologies

Designed for residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments, Communities v2 ensures value across a range of precinct types.

Greenfield

Commercial

Industrial

Urban renewal

Airport

Campus

Certification model

Green Star Communities v2 ensures projects are on track to deliver outcomes at certification through an annual Green Star Masterplanned assessment.

Green Star Masterplanned

- Demonstrates intent and strategy
- Based on forward plans and progress
- Renewed annually

Green Star Certified

- Verifies delivered outcomes
- A snapshot in time
- Awarded on completion

greenstar

Green Building Council Australia

Green Star Communities v2 Submission Guidelines are available now

On the Green Star resources portal and GBCA shop

Registrations are open now

Find out more and stay up to date with the latest info via https://www.gbca.au/