



Green Star 2014:

14 Thought Leaders

June 2013

Green Star in 2014

As part of the continual improvement of the Green Star rating system, the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) has committed to an ambitious schedule of Green Star development projects in 2013/2014. This extensive program of works is designed to:

- **Establish** a more efficient online mode of delivery for all Green Star rating tools
- **Create** a single cross-sector rating tool for building design and construction; and
- **Implement** new initiatives to improve the Green Star certification process.

Partner with us

The GBCA seeks 14 industry 'Thought-Leaders' to support the next phase of development for the Green Star rating system.

Becoming a Green Star 2014 thought-leader allows your organisation to:

- **Have a seat at the table** and provide input into the evolution of Green Star via representation in steering committees and advisory groups;
- **Lead your industry** and be at the forefront of the sustainability industry improvement in Australia
- **Drive sustainable transformation** and gain national and international recognition as a built environment sustainability leader.
- **Be among the first** to submit a project under the new Green Star – Design & As Built online rating tool
- **Show your support** and demonstrate your commitment to corporate social responsibility by contributing to the improvement of Australia's built environment.

As a Thought-Leader, you will enjoy exclusive benefits that will place your organisation at the forefront of the Green star rating system's most exciting phase of development yet.

The Green Star 2014 program of works

Worth approximately \$1.3 million, the Green Star 2014 program of works includes:

1. A SINGLE RATING TOOL FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

The current suite of sector-based Green Star - Design & As Built rating tools will be combined to form a single easy-to-use online rating tool. All credits and benchmarks will also be updated to reflect current industry best practice.



2. NEW ONLINE PLATFORM

All of the Green Star rating tools will be transitioned to a new online submission system which will make Green Star simpler and more cost-effective to use. The Green Star – Performance rating tool will be the first rating tool to be delivered online, followed by Green Star – Communities, Green Star – Interiors and Green Star – Design & As Built.

3. EFFICIENT CERTIFICATION

A number of improvement initiatives are also planned that will make the Green Star certification process easier, faster and more consistent.

Scope of Green Star 2014 development

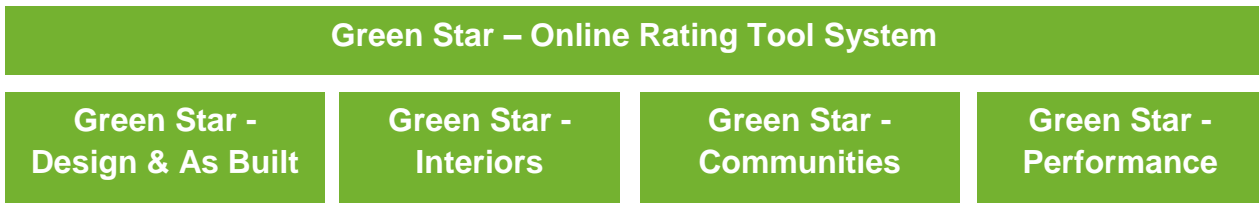
GREEN STAR – DESIGN & AS BUILT

1. **One rating tool, many building types:** The Green Star 2014 project will see all existing sector-based Green Star Design & As Built rating tools will be combined into a single rating tool. This new rating tool will cover most building types (with the exception of single unit dwellings or townhouse complexes where no common areas exist).
2. **Greater alignment with other Green Star rating tools:** The new Green Star – Design & As Built rating tool will align with and complement the operation of our other cross-sector rating tools: Green Star - Communities, Green Star - Interiors, and Green Star - Performance.
3. **Simplified compliance pathways between Green Star Design & As Built:** The documentation required when seeking an 'As Built' rating following a 'Design' rating will be streamlined to avoid duplication of efforts. This will make achieving a Green Star - As Built certification simpler, more consistent and more cost-effective for Applicants and Assessors.
4. **Forty per cent fewer credits and less documentation:** Where compliance with credits has become common practice, such as in the case of the 'High Frequency Ballasts' and 'Insulant ODP', such credits will be removed from the Green Star – Design & As Built rating tool. The new rating tool will also feature a revised 'Land Use and Ecology' category and common methodologies for 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions' and 'Potable Water'.
5. **A broader scope:** While the number of credits will decrease, credit benchmarks will be increased to align with current industry best practice. The rating tool will also address new sustainability issues including climate adaptation and resilience, cultural heritage, product declarations and ergonomics.
6. **A simplified weighting system:** Like Green Star - Performance and Green Star - Communities, the weighting system for Green Star Design & As Built will be simplified so that one point in the 'Water' category will be equivalent to one point in the 'Energy' category.

ONLINE SUBMISSION SYSTEMS

All Green Star rating tools will be delivered online by end of 2014. Green Star – Performance will be the first online rating tool, followed by Green Star – Interiors, Communities and Design & As Built.

Transitioning the rating tools to an online delivery platform will make compiling and submitting documentation, and accessing technical information much easier for project teams. It is expected that the transition to an online system will also decrease the processing timeframe for submissions.



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GREEN STAR CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Green Star users have told us that they want Green Star tools to be easy and cost effective to use, and more consistent, transparent, efficient, rigorous, and innovative. Significant improvements have been made to the certification process as a result of the Green Star Revolution program of works in 2011/12 however further initiatives have been identified that will improve the quality and consistency of assessments and make achieving a Green Star certification quicker and less costly.

In addition to improvements to the existing certification process, a number of new initiatives are planned for Green Star in 2014 including:

- **Governance and quality control:** The GBCA will seek ISO 9001 certification for Green Star in order to demonstrate that the appropriate controls and processes are in place to deliver a high quality service to Green Star users. Improved management of the certification process will lead to improved certainty around assessment outcomes and reduced risk for Applicants, which will also help to reduce the cost of certification.
- **Innovation challenges:** The GBCA will issue 'Innovation Challenges' to encourage innovation in specific areas and facilitate improvements to current industry best practice.
- **Technical guidance made easy:** Since the original release of the current Green Star rating tools, many rulings and revised credits have been issued. As the rating tools are moved online, technical guidance will be integrated and embedded within online submission platform, making credit compliance information easier to find and understand.

- **A helping hand:** Credit templates and examples for all Green Star credits will offer clear guidance to project teams on Green Star documentation requirements, making the compilation of submissions quicker and easier. The templates and examples will also give Green Star Certified Assessors easy access to standardised information, which will help to improve the consistency of assessments.
- **Simple online submissions:** the development of the first iteration of the Green Star online submission system is already underway. The online submission system is expected to reduce the processing time for Green Star submissions by up to one week and make the submission process quicker and easier for project teams.

More technical support: The GBCA offers regular meetings, assessments of site wide infrastructure arrangements, amendments to documentation requirements for large and complex buildings and more on an informal basis. As part of the Green Star 2014 program, we will look to formalise and expand these offerings to ensure all projects have access to the technical assistance they need.

- **Integration with building simulation software:** The creation of the online submission system has scope to incorporate software 'plug-ins' that will simplify the modelling and documentation process for project teams. The integration and compatibility of software will allow standardised modelling reports to be generated automatically, providing greater certainty to Assessors that simulations have been done in accordance credit requirements, and reducing risk for project teams.
- **Simple compliance path from Design to As-Built:** Simplified compliance will mean that certain credits that are achieved at the Design phase will be able to be automatically awarded at the As Built stage. 'Not applicable' scores will be carried over and design features will not be re-assessed at the As Built stage, increasing the certainty and consistency of submission outcomes.
- **Examination of alternate assessment models:** During 2014 we will be examining and trialling alternative certification models, including:
 - a) **Individual credit assessment:** We've received feedback from a number of local councils that they would like to have their developments assessed against specific Green Star credits without those developments requiring full Green Star certification. This option would make Green Star more accessible and may serve as a gateway to the achievement of full Green Star certification.
 - b) **Volume certification:** In sectors where it is common to use the same design, construction and operational practices for many projects, it may be possible to rate multiple projects via a simplified certification process. This option leverages uniformity in building design, construction and management to reduce costs and ensure consistency across assessment outcomes.

- c) **Pre-assessed documents:** A variation of the volume certification approach is the pre-assessment of certain documents for compliance (such as portfolio-wide Environmental Management Plans), with subsequent checks only required to determine that these documents have in fact been used for the individual project being assessed.
- d) **Approved service providers:** Many service providers have completed numerous Green Star submissions successfully. An approved service providers approach would see these consultants approved as 'Green Star Experts' with a modified assessment process applicable to projects who have their submission signed off these expert consultants.
- e) **Alternate certification models:** Alternative models that have been implemented overseas include the 'private certifier' model. Depending on feasibility trials within the Australian market, they may be introduced as a more flexible alternative to the standard Green Star assessment process.
- f) **Face-to-face meetings between Assessors and project contacts:** Green Star users regularly request to meet with their project's assessment panel before or after assessment in order to provide context to their submission or gain panel feedback. While this would represent a significant change to the current Green Star process, implementing such a change may help to increase the transparency and accountability of assessments.

The benefits of being a Green Star 2014 Thought-Leader

BRANDING, PROMOTION AND PROFILE

Logo (denoting Thought-Leader status) included on the landing page and dedicated sponsor page for Green Star - Design & As Built	Prominent
Organisational profile and web link on the dedicated sponsor page for Green Star 2014 for up to 12 months	100 words
Opportunity to submit articles in Green Star quarterly newsletter (<i>Green Star eUpdate</i>)	X 1
Acknowledgement at all Green Star 2014 presentations and events	✓
Acknowledgement in all Green Star - 2014 media releases and speeches	✓
Acknowledgement of association with Green Star 2014 in articles within the GBCA e-newsletter (<i>Green Building Voice</i>)	✓
Opportunity to provide promotional items (e.g. banners) and/or distribute environmentally friendly materials at a Green Star 2014 event	1 event
Opportunity for your company's CEO/MD to speak at a Green Star event	1 event
Option to host networking drinks with the Green Star 2014 Technical Advisory Group (TAG), GBCA Board, Industry Steering Committee and other Thought Leaders within 12 months of release of the Green Star Design & As Built PILOT rating tool	✓
Opportunity to use the Green Star 2014 Thought-Leader logo on your own marketing collateral	✓
Discount on electronic advertisement on a Green Star online rating tool	30%

RATING TOOL DEVELOPMENT

Guaranteed position on the Green Star Industry Steering Committee	✓
Guaranteed position on Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) guiding project development OR opportunity to nominate a representative	✓
Quarterly reports on the Green Star 2014 project development status (via email)	✓

BE FIRST IN THE MARKET

One in-house (2hr) briefing on the rating tool, prior to the Green Star 2014 release to your staff	✓
One in-house (2hr) briefing on the rating tool, prior to the Green Star 2014 release to your key clients	✓
GBCA Executive to speak (1hr) at an in-house event (lecture, conference, etc)	✓
One Green Star - Design & As Built technical workshop provided as part of the project registration fee (where applicable)	X 1
Free 'pre-assessment review' prior to project documentation submission	4 Hours
Feature article/case study in GBCA Evolution annual publication	✓

Thought-Leader commitment

Fourteen industry thought-leaders are sought for the Green Star 2014 program of works. Each Thought-Leader is asked to commit \$15,000 (+ GST) towards project development costs.

Timing

Thought-Leaders sought	June – July 2013
Green Star 2014 projects commence	1 July 2013
Green Star 2014 project completion	December 2014

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