

Industry Advisory Group

Minutes

27 July 2017, Time 1:30-3:00pm, Venue: GBCA Boardroom & teleconference.

Attendees

Paolo Bevilacqua (chair)	General Manager, Sustainability	Frasers
Marine Calmettes	Sustainability Manager, Operations	Frasers
Phil Cook (phone)	Sustainability Project Engineer	W&GE
Owen Grace (phone)	Construction and Development	Brookfield Multiplex
Rory Eames (phone)	Director	Brevet
Kristie Martin (phone)	State Manager	Viridis
Chris Walker (phone)	Lead ESD Consultant	Jacobs
Matthew Waltho (phone)	Sustainability Manager	Tonsley
Naomi Martin	Senior Manager – Strategic Products & Solutions	GBCA
Jorge Chapa	Head of Market Transformation	GBCA
Nicole Sullivan	Senior Manager – Green Star Solutions	GBCA
Devan Valenti	Technical Specialist	GBCA

Apologies

Alicia Maynard	General Manager, Sustainability & Technical Services	ISPT
Digby Hall	Principal Sustainability Consultant	Umow Lai
Tony Watson	Associate Director	WSP Buildings
Daniel Grunbaum	Sustainable Design / Senior Consultant	Lendlease
Hannah Morton	Associate	Cundall
Richard Palmer	Associate Director - Sustainability	WSP Built Ecology
Simone Concha	Sustainability Director	JLL
Usha Iyer-Raniga (phone)	Associate Professor	RMIT University
Samantha Hall	Low Carbon CRC	Low Carbon CRC, UNSW / Rate my Space

Agenda

1. Opening group governance
2. Matters arising from the previous meeting
3. Report on standing items
4. Matters for discussion
5. Matters for note
6. Closing group governance

Refer to the meeting papers for full details.

1. Opening Group Governance

1.1 Welcome and introductions

The Industry Advisory group welcomes Phil Cook from Wood & Grieve Engineers, replacing Glenn Alman. Devan Valenti, new Technical Specialist in the Green Star Solutions team, was introduced. The quorum of 8 was reached.

1.2 Conflict of interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

1.3 Adoption of minutes

The IAG minutes from March and April were adopted.

The GBCA reported that we are waiting on a brief from a consultant on the human rights thought leadership paper and will report back to the next IAG meeting.

Action: Report back to IAG regarding progress on human rights thought leadership paper. (Jorge)

1.4 Green Star Steering Committee update

Noted

1.5 Technical Advisory Group composition and attendance

Noted. A change in membership will wait for the IAG spill to occur, following the Green Star Steering Committee.

1.6 Participation by NZGBC

Noted

2. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Updates noted.

3. Report on standing items

3.1 Certification process improvements

Noted

3.2 Current projects

Rating tool alignment – An IS and Green Star – Communities crosswalk is underway, with ISCA expected to be providing an early draft to the GBCA soon. ISCA is hoping to finalise by September.

A WELL Communities Crosswalk will be developed when WELL releases the rating tool.

3.3 Minor version releases

See item 5.2.

3.4 Strategic revisions to Green Star

See item 4.1.

3.5 Standing subgroups

3.5.1-3.5.6 no issues of note

3.5.7 Recognised Provider

The Recognised Provider scheme will be phased out by 2019. In the meantime, existing Recognised Providers will retain their status for the agreed period but no new applications for recognition will be accepted.

3.5.8 no issues of note.

4 .Matters for discussion

4.1 Board strategic direction

Achievements this year:

- Registered 471 projects
- Certified 395 projects
- Volume certification of 33 branches/retail stores
- Now a total of 670 registered Green Star – Performance buildings

Next year – strategic direction – CONFIDENTIAL

- Carbon positive roadmap – targeting launch at Green Cities (March, in Melbourne)
- Carbon neutral certification
- Carbon neutral labelling scheme
- Revamp of Green Star – Interiors, it isn't growing outside of retail. Aim for holistic but simpler rating tool.
- "v1.5" update of Green Star – to introduce trajectories in Green Star in 2019 – a bigger leap for benchmarks
- Residential rating tool for apartment units and single family dwellings to be launched later this financial year. It's early days yet but if your organisation is interested please contact the GBCA.

The original version 2.0 ambition has been recognised as larger than our ability to deliver so the GBCA have targeted the v1.5 concept in order to deliver sooner. The governance process will be worked out with the Green Star Steering Committee.

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The GBCA are planning to issue a questionnaire for the IAG to complete, as part of planning to discuss the v1.5 update to Green Star. The process will be that all topics are open for consideration up to the next TAG meeting, and following that prioritisation will occur. This will be the focus of the next meeting, at a high level.

Action: GBCA to construct a questionnaire (eg Survey Monkey) for feedback as an input to the next meeting. (Nicole)

The IAG asked what the GBCA has been able to learn from the NZGBC's Homestar rating tool. Key concepts are simplicity, support by government mandate was key to driving success. The GBCA is also talking to others such as the CSIRO regarding 'Liveability'.

4.2 Carbon Neutral Standard for Buildings

Certification will be run through Green Star – Performance or NABERS Energy.

In Carbon Neutral Standard for Buildings, LGCs have to be retired every time regardless of the arrangement (that is, both before and after the meter). This means that the same information can be used in two different ways in Green Star – Performance.

STCs are not included under this ruling.

The GBCA and NABERS are working together to write clearer guidance on LGCs in the rating systems. PPAs are presenting difficulties with tracking of retirement of certificates.

The Carbon Neutral Standard does not have preferences for offset acquisition for scope 2 emissions. Green Star and NABERS both require GreenPower (unless LGCs are within the metered boundary). This policy remains in place for now, though the disparity with NCOS is acknowledged.

The GBCA currently proposes \$2000 per building in addition to Green Star – Performance fees. No multiple registration discounts will apply due to the effort involved in assessment and auditing, the amount of fixed cost for setup and reporting, and the fee payable to the federal government.

The minimum requirements remain as stated in the standard for now, with Green Star – Performance requiring 8 or 9 points rather than an average star rating. The Department of Environment and Energy have agreed to do a Portfolio pilot when one comes in.

In Green Star we are considering that if you are using renewables and you have sold the LGCs, we may allow carbon offsetting to replace the carbon. This will be taken to the GHG Emissions subgroup for discussion.

4.3 Pathways to carbon neutral

The Carbon Neutral Standard for Buildings applies to buildings in operation and all of scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

The GBCA is looking to do something to steer projects towards carbon neutrality. Addressing scope 2 emissions for base building and whole building are key steps. Embodied carbon is also an area that the GBCA wish to tackle.

The Department of Environment and Energy appreciate what the GBCA are trying to do and haven't shown concern. NABERS have indicated that they will follow our lead, as they are interested.

The Innovation Challenges will be examined in detail by the GHG Emissions subgroup.

How often is a building fully powered by renewables? Is there an option for eg 20% powered by renewables?

Action: GBCA to consider partial renewables supply rather than “fully powered by renewables”. (Jorge)

Off-site renewables would apply for fitouts – the GBCA will be asking the subgroup if the fitout energy efficiency threshold should be lowered.

Long-standing rules for district energy solutions will be applied in the same way within Green Star – Performance, as projects need to be able to account for how the power is being assigned.

Due to timing, this is yet to go to the Steering Committee and will do so in the next meeting. The TAG has indicated in principle support.

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Terminology is still a work in progress, eg wording on services vs base building and whole building. Services would also need to include tenancy services. 'Carbon neutral ready' may dilute value of Carbon Neutral Certified, and would need to be carefully defined as it could be misused if a distribution board is ready for PV, for example.

Concern expressed that having this many labels could be confusing for the market, as an extension of existing confusion with Green Star versions.

Action: GBCA to test concepts with non-Green Star / Sustainability audiences to check for confusion. (Jorge)

Could these labels be sold on their own, and if so what would it cost? Would this be offered as a standalone label? Or separable label with mandatory inclusion of full rating process?

Action: GBCA to consider sales strategy for these labels, including potential for separate label to Green Star certification. (Jorge)

Action: Pathways to Carbon Neutral is to become a standing item for this group. (Nicole)

The IAG provided in principle endorsement to move forward.

4.4 Market activity

It was noted that the economy is fairly strong, but no specific trends identified.

The GBCA would appreciate a heads up from TAG members regarding impending submissions.

The GBCA is recruiting for 2 Technical Coordinators and 2 interns at the moment.

There has been a general uptick in registrations.

4.5 Ecology thought leadership paper

The GBCA requested nominations for an Ecology subgroup. IAG members can nominate themselves or another person from their organisation. By the end of the current week if possible.

Action: Nominations for the Ecology subgroup are to be emailed to Jorge or Nicole. (All)

Fiona (seconded from Dept of Environment and Energy) has been providing valuable insights on how ecology in Green Star can work better.

5. Matters for note

5.1 Release of Green Star – Design & As Built and Green Star – Interiors v1.2

Noted. Webinar completed today with 68 attendees. It was recorded and will be available as a free webinar.

5.2 Green Star – Performance v1.2

Noted

5.3 Carbon Positive Roadmap feedback summary

There was great participation in workshops and the GBCA thanks all who have contributed in workshops and through submissions. More work is required internally to respond to that feedback.

The GBCA is currently tendering for a consultant to assist in defining 1.5 degree trajectory benchmarks. The GBCA is hoping for an October release of the technical scope and draft and a final release in March at Green Cities (Melbourne).

Action: GBCA to provide feedback to the IAG at the next meeting. (Naomi)

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Currently, there is no industry consensus on offsets. It is essential that the solutions offered are credible to garner industry confidence.

5.4 Amendments to the query process

Noted

5.5 For note: Crosswalks

The GBCA requested feedback on all Crosswalks, and especially the WELL Building Standard, as it is being opened for review at with an intention to release a new version in October.

Action: Provide feedback to Jorge on Crosswalk content, especially WELL Building Standard. (All)

6. Closing group governance

6.1 Other items

The IAG is likely to spill after the end of the year when the Green Star Steering Committee has been resolved.

6.2 Next meeting

Thursday 14th September 2017

The GBCA would appreciate a volunteer for the location of this meeting as it is close to our moving date.

For note – the following meeting is set for Thursday 7th December 2017.