

Wake up
Remember to breathe
Breathe in
Fresh air that is
The gift that is
The earth and
Remember
Flora, fauna and
They are all part of a
Community
Knowledge and follow
Protectors of this land
Land I walk upon
Be treated with
And respect
Recycle
Reduce my
And consumption
Remember that we all
ONE PLANET
Quench my thirst
Water and remember
Water is life
Will protect
Precious resources
Environment provides to us
My commitment
Ensure its safety
Remember that change
Starts with me.



A GLOBAL GREEN LEADER



The recent *Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark* (GRESB), published in September 2012, shows that in the green building arena, Australia remains a global leader.

The survey of 450 global property companies and funds, representing US \$1,300 billion in global assets under management, has found that Australian companies score higher than their peers in any other region.

While Australian companies accounted for just nine per cent of survey respondents, 35 per cent are considered by GRESB to be global leaders in sustainability. A stunning 95 per cent of Australian companies surveyed had internal resources dedicated to sustainability and all but one respondent had senior management accountability for sustainability.

These results reaffirm that the industry's commitment to green building is being recognised globally.

"Australia can be proud of its reputation as a leader in green buildings and sustainable communities," says Tim Beresford, Austrade's Executive Director of Australian Operations.

"A 'can do' attitude and willingness to collaborate is enabling Australian companies to combine the intelligence, experience, tradition and innovation from other countries to create world-leading green projects," Tim adds.

Chief Executive Officer of the World Green Building Council, Jane Henley, agrees. "Australia was one of the world's earliest adopters of green building practices – and that leadership is evident today. Certainly, the GBCA's international reputation has helped Australian companies to position themselves as leaders in the global green building market," Jane says.

The GPT Group, for example, was announced the world's most sustainable real estate company in the 2012/2013 *Dow Jones Sustainability Index*, which evaluates the performance of the largest 2,500 companies listed on the Dow Jones.

Similarly, Lend Lease has secured its reputation as a leader in sustainability both nationally and internationally and now has 53 Green Star-rated projects under its belt, including offices, shopping centres and apartments.

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”

Brett Pollard
Principal
HASSELL

This expertise helped Lend Lease secure lucrative contracts for the London Olympics.

Many Australian professional services firms now have international reputations as sustainability specialists. Moving between offices around the world, Woods Bagot's Director of Sustainability, Mark Kelly, is engaged in the sustainability dialogue with a range of international clients. Mark thinks Australia is "definitely punching above its weight relative to the size of its population and the size of the construction economy. The Green Building Council of Australia has been very influential and we are now seeing the university, commercial and lifestyle sectors imbued with a philosophy of sustainable design."

"Australia is definitely among the 'lucky countries' in terms of its capacity to respond to sustainable building issues and climate change," says Brett Pollard, Principal at HASSELL.

"As a relatively wealthy economy, emerging green building technologies requiring upfront financial investment are within the reach of many. We also have a remarkable opportunity to capitalise on our unique climate to harness and use alternative energy sources. ►

EPA Victoria Office Fitout
6 Star Green Star –
Office Interiors v1.1

Photography by Paul Ebbage

**A
GLOBAL
GREEN
LEADER**



**Sinclair Knight Merz
Melbourne Office**
5 Star Green Star –
Office Interiors v1.1

Government policy clearly plays a major part in driving innovation in green building, as does the leadership of the Green Building Council of Australia,” Brett adds.

“Over the past decade, there has been huge growth in the commitment by Australian companies to undertake formal green building certification using Green Star. Similarly, there’s been a huge accumulation of knowledge within the design community about sustainable building practices – thanks largely to training available through Green Star and LEED accreditation programs. Green technologies and practices advance quickly,” Brett adds.

Woodhead’s Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Angelo Di Marco, agrees, adding that while projects were once incentivised solely by rating tools such as Green Star, today other drivers include “tenant demand and regulatory changes, harmonisation of regulatory energy efficiency assessments, and innovative schemes such as environmental upgrade agreements in NSW.

“While great things have been done, and Australia might be leading the charge, the concern is that the pace of change is not fast enough – even in this country. At the end of the day, sustainability is a global problem, and we should continue to engage with our global partners using our collective skills and technological know how to keep pushing the boundaries.”

Australia’s geography and remote location make international connections a priority for sparking innovation and inspiration. We do need to work harder to forge those connections – and much of the GBCA’s international work rests on establishing and strengthening relationships with other green building councils to drive innovation in Australia. Austrade is currently working alongside the GBCA to attract investment in Australia’s sustainable built environment, and showcase Australian capabilities.

“Australian governments and businesses are working to raise awareness of the merits of highly-rated buildings and to encourage investment in retrofitting existing building stock and developing efficient precincts and buildings. Many of the challenges being addressed by the green building movement are global in nature. In this context, the importance of international connections cannot be understated,” says Tim Beresford.

Woods Bagot’s Mark Kelly is confident that Australia will maintain its momentum. “Australia loves being out in front and showing the world what to do, and certainly the rivalry between some of our big cities can’t hurt. There is a real sense of commitment to achieving minimum standards in Australia, reinforced with a professional obligation to ‘do the right thing’. Australia is in a very good position to lead by example.”

Australia has inspired the world for a decade, and will continue to do so for many years to come, says Rick Fedrizzi, the USGBC’s President, Chief Executive Officer and Founding Chair, and Chair of the World Green Building Council.

“Australia was an early leader in sustainability and continues to set the pace for global markets. Among many of Australia’s leadership initiatives, Green Star has been a huge catalyst for international green building, and the Green Building Council of Australia has created countless opportunities for green businesses and buildings. Since witnessing the GBCA in action, I’ve been very inspired – personally and professionally – by this country’s accomplishments in the sustainability realm.” ●





**Peter Doherty Institute,
University of Melbourne**
5 Star Green Star –
Education Design v1