

Community Benefits

Points Available: 1

Aim

To encourage investment by projects in infrastructure for use by the broader community, such as the incorporation of spaces that are publically accessible.

Rating Tool Eligibility



Green Star
Design & As Built



Green Star
Interiors



Green Star
Performance



Legacy Green Star
Rating Tools

Why is this Innovation Challenge Important?

There are many impacts that a project can have on the broader community. A building that the community can engage and interact with can transform it into a centre of activity for the community, a meeting place, a place of cultural significance, and a source of pride to local residents. Conversely, if the community is not encouraged to engage with a building it reduces that project's capacity to add value to the community.

This Innovation Challenge aims to encourage the community to become part of the project, or design solutions that provide additional value to the community. It emphasises the importance of performing needs analysis for local residents, and the provision of spaces that promote engagement between the community and the building or fitout. Examples of these spaces or areas include a publicly available community space for hire, a food garden, child care facility or installations for young artists, not-for-profits or start-ups.

This Innovation Challenge aims to encourage project teams to go above and beyond what is commonly provided when designing and developing buildings. Projects in the education, health and public building sector, must show that what is provided delivers benefits above and beyond those provided by their end-use. For example, a large healthcare facility will not be recognised for providing healthcare spaces, or an auditorium for offering classes as these are commonly provided by such types of developments.

Please note that retail spaces or food courts within commercial buildings are not rewarded by this Innovation Challenge.

Compliance Requirements

To claim this Innovation Challenge your project team must:

- Perform a 'needs analysis' of the surrounding community. This may include community briefings, meetings or workshops;
- Develop a strategy for how the project will provide social/community benefits and consult with the broader community on the proposed plan; and
- Implement the plan and deliver outcomes as defined by the community benefits strategy.

Please note that while the strategy may include some benefits that are transitory, such as the provision of temporary public spaces during construction, it must also include benefits that will be present and ongoing throughout the lifetime of the project.

While no specific benchmarks have been provided with regards to size or space definitions, these must be developed in accordance with the size of the project, and in line with the community consultation undertaken.

Alternative Compliance Methods

A Credit Interpretation Request (CIR) may be submitted to the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) when an applicant wishes to advocate for an alternative yet equivalent method of meeting the Compliance or Documentation Requirements. Any CIRs submitted for this Innovation Challenge will be processed as free-of-charge.

Definitions

Needs analysis – An analysis carried out to determine what requirements are sought by the community, separating “wants” from “needs” and determining the priorities, giving reasons.

Documentation Requirements

Design Review / Design and As Built Submission

Provide the following required documentation:

- **Submission Template** outlining the needs analysis process undertaken by the project team and resulting outcomes implemented in the project. The Submission Template also enables project teams to provide feedback on the Innovation Challenge to inform future developments.

Provide documentation to support the claims made within the Submission Template. This may include:

- **Extracts from the needs analysis report** clearly outlining the needs of the surrounding community in relation to the project.
- **A list of community engagement activities** undertaken to develop a community benefits strategy in response to the findings from the needs analysis.
- **Plans** clearly outlining how the outcomes from the community benefits strategy will be / have been (depending on the stage of the project) implemented in the project.