



Green Star Innovation Challenges

September 2013 – September 2015

16 September 2015

Introduction

In September 2013 the GBCA introduced a new approach to rewarding Innovation in Green Star – these were called Innovation Challenges. Innovation Challenges are designed to encourage and direct investment in solutions that address a wide range of social, economic and environmental sustainability issues. This pathway provides the opportunity to reward projects for Innovative concepts not currently rewarded by Green Star, while also helping the GBCA to further develop the Green Star rating tool.

As of September 2015 there are 17 published Innovation Challenges, these are:

- Adaptation and Resilience
- Affordable Housing
- Building Air Tightness
- Community Benefits
- Contractor Education
- Culture, Heritage & Identity
- Design for Active Living
- Energy Metering Integrity
- Environmental Product Declarations
- Financial Transparency
- High Performance Site Office
- Local Procurement
- Market Intelligence and Research
- Marketing Excellence
- Material Life Cycle Impacts
- Reduction of Construction and Demolition Waste
- Social Return on Investment

In addition, there is also the opportunity to propose a 'new Innovation Challenge'.

Innovation Challenge Queries

To target points under an Innovation Challenge, projects are required to first contact the GBCA using the 'Innovation Challenge Query' process whereby a project team outlines which Innovation Challenge they intend to target, and to agree on the metrics that the project team will be assessed against.

Over the past two years 213 Innovation Challenge Queries have been processed by the GBCA from 92 projects. All of these requests have been approved. So far, the most popular Innovation Challenges have been Financial Transparency and Contractor Education. To date, no project has expressed interest in targeting the Affordable Housing or Environmental Product Declaration challenges.

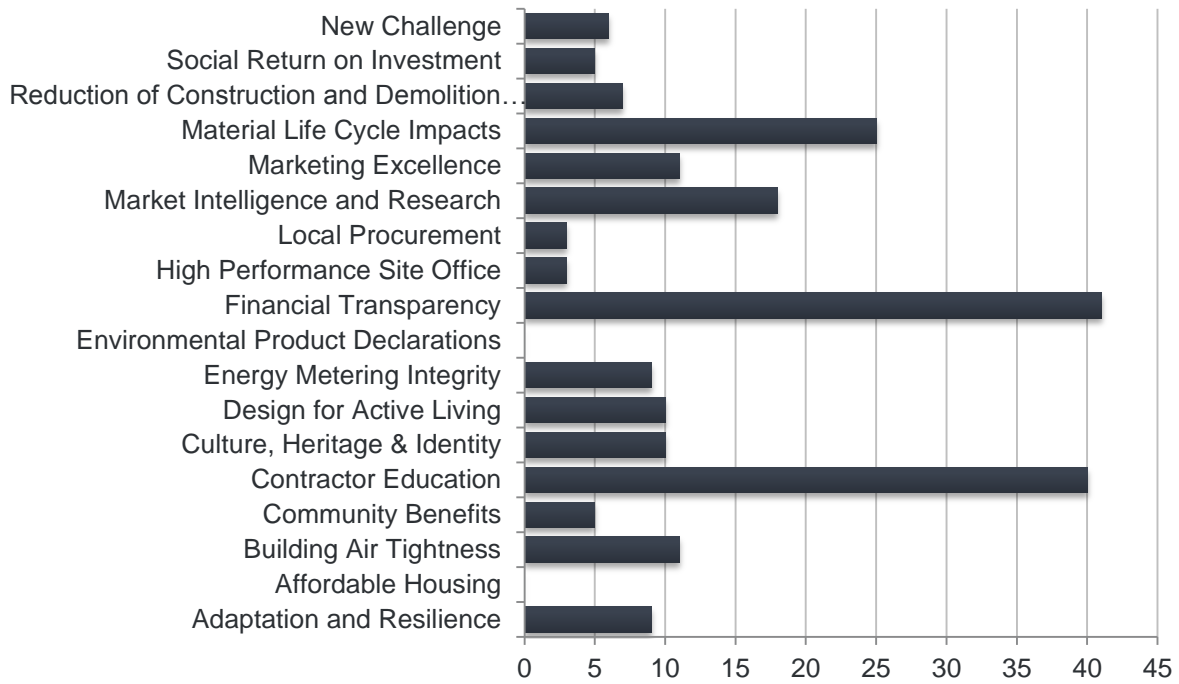


Figure 1: Innovation Challenge Queries by Challenge Title

Innovation Challenge Points

Since submitting these Innovation Challenge Queries, 30 projects have gone on to be certified with an additional 54 projects certified as part of a portfolio certification project. In total, across these projects a total of 211 Innovation Points, or 2.5 points per project, have been awarded.

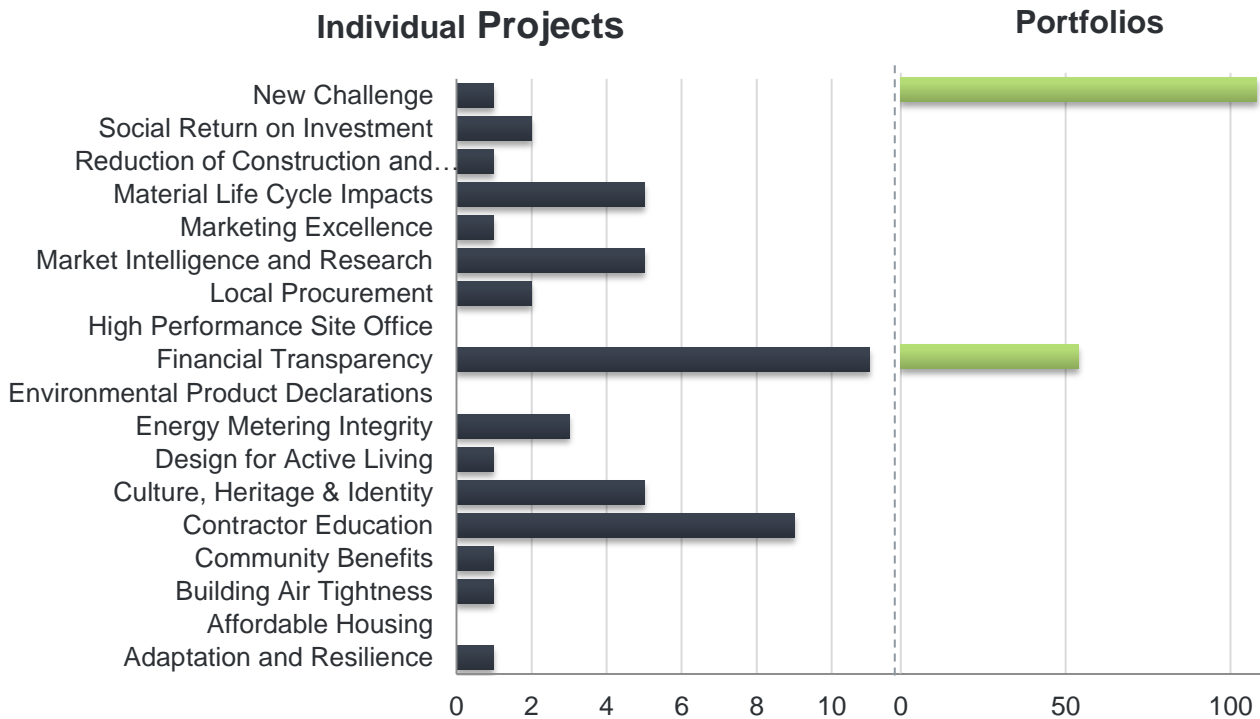


Figure 2: Total points awarded by Challenge Title across all projects

The greatest uptake of Innovation Challenges has been within the Green Star – Performance rating tool, however this number includes a Portfolio Certification approach to Innovation, with points applied to 54 individual certified projects. Many Green Star – Office projects have also taken advantage of the benefits provided by the Innovation Challenge pathway.

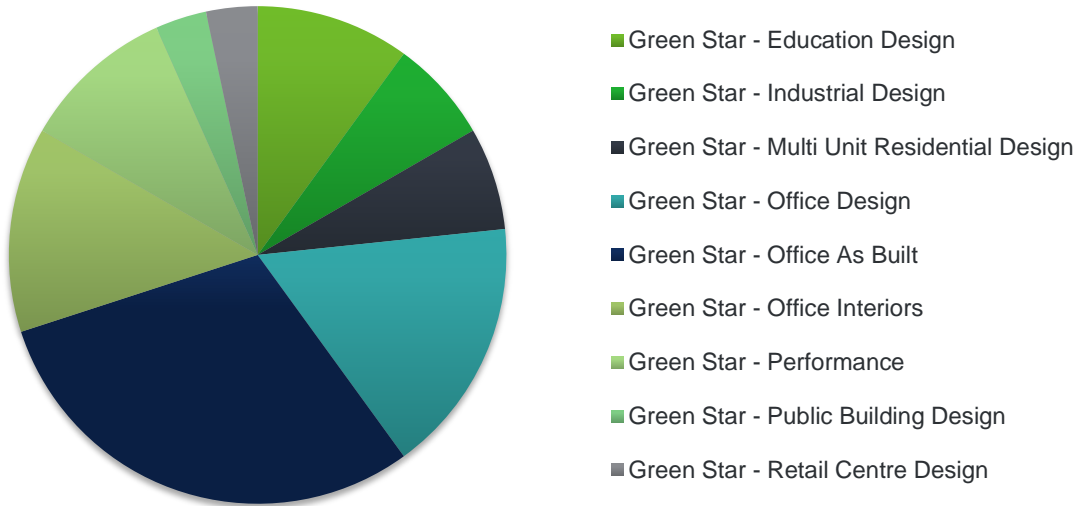


Figure 3: Breakdown by rating tool (graph excludes a 54 project Green Star – Performance portfolio)

The take up of Innovation Challenges has been quite uniformly distributed across the range of Green Star projects and the greatest number of Innovation Challenge points awarded for 3 Star (within Green Star - Performance ratings) and 5 Star projects. There is no indication that project teams are using Innovation Challenges as the sole pathway to target the higher Green Star ratings.

On average, the total number of Innovation Challenge points awarded (at an average of 2.5 per projects) represents 5.6% of a 4 Star rating, 4.2% of a 5 Star rating and 3.3% of a 6 Star rating.

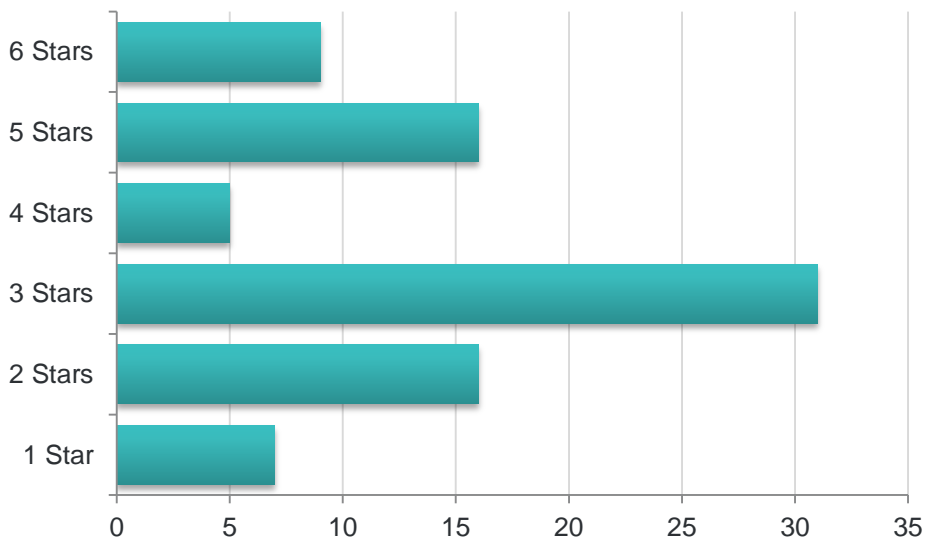


Figure 4: Projects that have targeted Innovation Challenges, by Star rating

What's next?

We are collecting feedback from projects which have targeted Innovation Challenges and will be looking to publish further reports based on the feedback provided. In many cases valuable feedback on the implementation of the Innovation Challenge won't be available until projects reach practical completion, or after, and have had the opportunity to completely implement the Innovation Challenge in its entirety.

We are also collecting valuable data from projects which have targeted the Financial Transparency Innovation Challenge which is helping the GBCA to further understand the costs of implementing the Green Star rating tool.

Over the next few weeks we will be updating the existing challenges and releasing new challenges – watch this space!

Conclusions

Innovation Challenges have provided a new avenue for recognizing innovative sustainable initiatives in projects. These challenges have been successfully implemented and positively received.

4 projects
have achieved
the full **10**
points
for innovation