

Integrating Healthy Environments

Points Available: 1

Developed in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council and Enterprise Community Partners.

Aim

To support high-performance, cost-effective and health-promoting project outcomes through an early analysis of the interrelationships among systems.

Rating Tool Eligibility



Green Star
Communities



Green Star
Design & As Built



Green Star
Interiors



Green Star
Performance



Legacy Green Star
Rating Tools

Note: This Innovation Challenge is applicable to all rating tools, except stand-alone Design ratings (Legacy rating tools).

Why is this Innovation Challenge Important?

Features of our built environment at multiple spatial scales – such as stair design, accessibility of sidewalks, parks, and supermarkets – play a proven role in determining critical health behaviours¹, such as rates of daily physical activity² and dietary choices³. Where we live, work, learn, and play impacts our health. Project teams working on projects within the built environment have the ability to positively influence health through their work.

This Innovation Challenge outlines a process that allows project teams to collaborate with public health professionals to use public health data and community input to characterize how the project may impact (both positively and negatively) social, environmental and economic outcomes for the project’s end users. As a result of this collaborative process, project teams can promote positive (or reduce unintended negative) consequences on health. The process outlined here has been highly influenced by health impact assessment (HIA), a broadly used framework that helps guide systematic and comprehensive consideration of potential public health impacts of proposed policies and other decisions.

¹ Jackson RJ, Dannenberg AI, Frumkin H. Health and the built environment: 10 years after. American Journal of Public Health. september 2013;103(9):1542-1544.

² Adams MA, Hovell MF, Irvin V, Sallis JF, Coleman KJ, Iles S. Promoting stair use by Modeling: An experimental Application of the behavioral ecological Model. American Journal of Health Promotion. 2006.

³ Walker Re, Keane CR, Burke Jg. Disparities and access to healthy food in the United States: A review of food deserts literature. Health and Place. september 2010;16(5):876-884.

Compliance Requirements

To claim this Innovation Challenge your project team must:

- Conduct an analysis of community health needs and outline the distribution of health issues among impacted communities.
- Prioritize strategies to address identified needs. Identify actions that could be taken to enhance health-supportive features of the project and those that could minimize potential risks. Identify actions that can be taken within the project's design, construction or operation that will promote health equity.
- Intentionally implement selected strategies to address identified community and occupant health needs.
- Develop a monitoring plan with performance metrics to evaluate the project's impact on occupant and community health throughout the project life cycle (design, construction and operations).

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.

Documentation Requirements

Design Review / Design and As Built Submissions

Provide the following required documentation:

- **Submission Template** outlining the project's design process in collaborating with public health professionals. 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:

- **Community analysis report;**
- **Monitoring plan;** and
- **Other supporting documentation** – project teams are encouraged to submit a CIR to the GBCA when targeting this Innovation Challenge in order to agree upon the project team's approach and the documentation intended to support the relevant claims.

Guidance

Additional information is available below for the project team's use.

- United States Green Building Council - <http://www.usgbc.org/about>
- Enterprise Community Partners – Green Communities
<http://www.enterprisecommunity.com/solutions-and-innovation/enterprise-green-communities/criteria>
- **Connections between the built environment and health outcomes**
Project teams can learn more about the connections between the built environment and health through resources such as:
 - Healthy Active by Design Tool - <http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/habd-tool>
 - The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Social Determinants of Health Series (http://www.rwjf.org/en/search-results.html?cs=content_series%3Awhat-shapes-health&s=0) provides issue briefs on connections between neighborhoods and health, housing and health, and social factors and health behaviors - http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2011/rwjf70442
 - The Build Healthy Places Network provides access to research and best practice models in connecting community development and health efforts - http://www.buildhealthyplaces.org/network_resources/
 - The Urban Land Institute's Intersections: Health and the Built Environment report explores the relationships between health and the way buildings and neighborhoods are built - <http://uli.org/report/intersections-health-and-the-built-environment/>
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Guide to Community Preventive Services summarizes evidence of community level programs and policies to improve health and prevent disease based on a scientific systematic review process - www.thecommunityguide.org
 - NYC Active Design Guidelines
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/environmental/active-design.shtml>
- Guidance and Best Practices in Stakeholder Participation in HIAs
<http://www.healthimpactproject.org/resources/document/Guide-for-Stakeholder-Participation.pdf>
This document provides recommended strategies for collaborating with stakeholders.
- Promoting Equity through the Practice of HIA
http://www.healthimpactproject.org/resources/body/PROMOTING-EQUITY-HIA_FINAL.PDF
This document highlights strategies for and case examples of promoting equity through health impact assessments.
- Human Impact Partners
 - Roles for Collaborators
<http://www.humanimpact.org/downloads/opportunities-for-stakeholder-engagement/>
This document provides examples of different partners that might be involved in a health impact assessment and their roles.

- Rapid HIA Model

<http://www.humanimpact.org/capacity-building/hia-tools-and-resources/#newrapidhia>

This document provides guidance for conducting a health impact assessment within a short timeline, while maintaining a high level of stakeholder engagement.

- Data sources table

<http://www.humanimpact.org/capacity-building/hia-tools-and-resources/>

This table outlines data sources that may be useful in a health impact assessment.

- Mithun Cultural Audit Tool

http://mithun.com/knowledge/knowledge_articles/category/culturalaudit/

The Cultural Audit Tool attempts to collect diverse community input from a broad constituency and helps to form a more inclusive picture of the community.