

GREEN STAR SA UPDATE NEWSLETTER – AUG '08

The Green Star SA – Office v1 rating tool is set for full release at the GBCSA's Convention & Exhibition on 2-4 November. The feedback period for public comment on the Pilot tool closed on 1 September, and feedback comments are currently being reviewed.

The Green Star SA - Office rating tool is based on the Australian Green Star system, and has been "South Africanised" for use in our country. Every credit in the Australian system was analysed for appropriateness to the South African environment and property sector. All Australian reference standards and codes were reviewed and changed to South African or other international standards where possible. In addition, credit thresholds were reviewed as to how hard the criteria would be for the South African market. It was important to keep the rigor of the internationally recognised rating system while not making it excessively hard for projects to receive points. There were also uniquely South African issues to be dealt with (Australia does not have minibus taxis!). No credits from the Australian tool were deemed to not apply, and none were deleted. In fact, five new credits were added where the Technical Working Group saw issues not addressed by the Australian tool or issues unique to SA that needed to be addressed. For example, a credit was added for lowering boiler and generator emissions, as more and more generators are used in the country. For a complete list of changes from the Australian Office tool, please see the Additional Resources section of the Green Star SA - Office page on our website.

The GBCSA and technical consultant Arup will review all feedback received and refer any recommended changes to the Technical Working Group of volunteer industry experts who developed the Pilot rating tool. The Technical Working Group will then discuss and approve any changes to the Pilot tool at their September meeting.

The final version 1 tool will be released at the GBCSA Conference, after which projects may register with the Green Star SA program and submit documentation for certification. The Green Star SA – Office v1 Technical Manual that explains the details of all credits and what documentation is required will also be available at this time.

Finally, the GBCSA is launching the Green Star SA Accredited Professional program the day after the conference (5 November). The program provides a professional designation for those people who have been through the training course and passed a subsequent exam. The first courses will be run on 5 November. Both courses for that day are already booked up, but the course will be given approximately every three months in all the major centres. Please see the GBCSA website www.gbcsa.org.za for more information on the Green Star SA Accredited Professional program.

The GBCSA thanks all those who have been part of the tool development process. We are eagerly looking forward to full release of the tool.