

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: GBCSA PVC EXPERT REFERENCE PANEL

To the attention of all Green Building Council of SA members and other interested stakeholders:

The Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) is committed to the continuous improvement of all Green Star SA credits. The **Mat-7 PVC Minimisation** credit is one of the Materials Category credits and is currently under review.

Due to industry feedback received on the Green Star SA Office v1 rating tool relating to the Mat-7 PVC Minimisation credit, the GBCSA has engaged with other Green Building Councils across the globe, in particular the Green Building Council of Australia whose Green Star rating system the GBCSA uses as the basis of the Green Star SA system. The current Green Star SA Mat-7 PVC Minimisation credit was adopted from the Australian Green Star rating tools. The Green Building Council of Australia recently completed a two-and-a-half year process of reviewing their PVC credit and in April of this year released their revised Mat-7 PVC credit. While the GBCSA feels that the revised Australian credit has been through an extremely in-depth and rigorous process and represents the most current international best practice for the PVC industry, it is important for us to engage with leaders within the South African PVC industry to review the revised Australian Green Star PVC credit for applicability to the South African context and for adoption into Green Star SA.

PVC Expert Reference Panel

The GBCSA is seeking experts from the GBCSA membership and the broader industry as well as the South African PVC Industry to serve on a PVC Expert Reference Panel (ERP). The ERP will act as an advisory group to the GBCSA to assist with technical matters on domestic and international best environmental practice initiatives related to the manufacture, use and end-of-life of PVC building products. In particular, the ERP will advise on applicability of the revised Australian Green Star PVC credit to the South African context. The GBCSA is seeking ERP participants with knowledge of the PVC industry and also with broader knowledge of property industry practices related to PVC and plastics.

A key aim of this credit review is to address the environmental and human-health impacts of PVC building and fitout materials, including product constituents and manufacturing processes. Any alterations to the credit will reflect a more holistic approach to the opportunities available for reducing the use of toxic or hazardous materials, while encouraging the reasonable use of replacement technologies and other environmental efficiencies relating to all stages of PVC building products production, use and disposal.

The panel will ultimately advise on how best to adapt the new Australian Green Star PVC credit for Green Star SA.

Proposed subject matter experts for PVC ERP

Successful nominees for the PVC ERP should be as objective, informed and as non-aligned as possible. It is required that nominees possess a diverse range of expertise covering at least one of the following areas:

- Toxicology
- Plastics
- Life Cycle Assessment
- Waste management/recycling, with emphasis on plastics and/or construction and demolition waste
- Building design and/or product specification, particularly for flooring and pipes
- Manufacturing of PVC or PVC component products
- Wire and cabling
- Carpet
- Resilient flooring
- Plastic piping
- South African standards and building codes in relation to PVC and plastics use
- National, local or municipal department representation from building, plumbing, public works, product procurement, waste management and recycling, health and environment
- Health and environmental non-governmental organisations

Expressions of Interest

Interested individuals are requested to send a brief Curriculum Vitae (CV) to greenstarsa@gbcsa.org.za with *Expression of Interest for PVC ERP* in the subject line. In the body of the email please include a concise description of how you would be able to contribute to the ERP (i.e. which areas from the above list might best describe your areas of expertise).

Self nominations are the preferred methods for expressions of interest for participation in the PVC ERP, however nominations from colleagues will also be considered.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by Friday 4 June, 2010

Selection of ERP Participants

All nominees will be considered equally by the GBCSA. Invitations to serve on the ERP will be extended to the individuals who possess demonstrated expertise in one or several of the areas stated above. The GBCSA seeks to establish a panel that is representative of the GBCSA's membership and of each part of the green building supply chain without reinforcing any single stakeholder's interests. The ERP will be lead by an Independent Chair, whom the GBCSA will appoint following the nominations process.

Scope of Work required by ERP Participants

The ERP will review a series of briefing documents before the group's first meeting. The initial briefing documents will consist mainly of background information concerning the new Australian Green Star PVC credit, which will serve as the proposed revisions to the credit requirements. Participants will be asked to provide comment regarding applicability to the

South African context and to propose solutions to the issues and questions raised prior to and during meetings.

The panel will convene by July 2010 and will consist of between five and ten participants, from across the country. After the first meeting, it will be determined how many additional meetings will be required, but the GBCSA anticipates a maximum of three meetings, occurring once monthly. The meetings will likely be conducted via video conference to minimise travel.

Remuneration for participation

The GBCSA will cover all reasonable travel and accommodation costs that may be incurred by participants; however, there is no remuneration available for participant's time.

About the GBCSA

Launched in September 2007, the Green Building Council of South Africa falls under the World Green Building Council umbrella and is a national, non-profit organisation that is committed to developing an environmentally sustainable property industry for South Africa by encouraging the adoption of green building practices. The GBCSA's mission is:

to promote, encourage and facilitate green building in the South African property and construction industry through market-based solutions.

The GBCSA's Green Star SA Rating Tools assess the environmental attributes and impact of buildings and can be freely downloaded from the GBCSA's website –www.gbcsa.org.za.

For further information please contact the Green Building Council at greenstarsa@gbcsa.org.za. Additional information concerning the new Australian Green Star PVC credit can be found at www.gbca.org.au/green-star/materials-category/revise-green-star-pvc-credit/2716.htm

Yours sincerely

The Green Star SA Team