

Better places – for neighbourhoods, precincts and wider communities

March 2023



◆ West Village, Brisbane, Australia. 6 star Green Star – Communities. Sekisui House

Green Star Communities

Green Star – Communities assesses the planning, design and construction of large scale development projects at a precinct, neighbourhood and/or community scale. It provides a rigorous and holistic rating across five impact categories.

Green Star Communities is a single, holistic rating tool for communities and precincts aiming to:

- ❖ Provide diverse, affordable, inclusive and healthy places to live, work and play
- ❖ Protect, maintain and restore the natural environment by reducing a development's ecological footprint
- ❖ Recognise demonstrated leadership and commitment to sustainability
- ❖ Encourage opportunities for business diversity, innovation and economic development

Green Star

Green Star is an internationally recognised sustainability rating system setting the standard for healthy, resilient, positive buildings and places. From individual buildings to entire communities, Green Star is transforming our built environment to create sustainable places for everyone.



Communities



Buildings



Interiors



Performance

Since the introduction of Green Star to New Zealand in 2007, there have been over 200 sustainable fitouts and buildings. These projects have included offices, educational facilities, industrial projects, and health care facilities. Certified developments are being delivered by a range of stakeholders: local and central governments, universities, airport corporations, government owned and private developers.

In Australia over half a million people are moving into Green Star Communities to live, visit or work.



▲ Curtin University, Perth. Australia
5 Star Green Star – Communities, 2015. Lifted to 6 star Green Star – Communities, 2020

- ❖ A sustainable community embodies the principles of sustainable development, respecting ecological limits and natural resource constraints, encouraging prosperity and well-being while optimising conditions for human development.
- ❖ A sustainable community has aspirations for the future that acknowledge the challenges brought about by change. It is liveable, resilient, diverse and adaptable. It strives for a lower carbon and ecological footprint.
- ❖ A sustainable community evolves through policy and collaborative practice that respects and embraces the aspirations of existing and future community stakeholders.

New Zealand's approach to sustainable cities

Across Aotearoa New Zealand, over 87%* of our population choose to live in urban environments. (*[The New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities](#)) By 2025, our population is expected to increase to over 5.5 million, reaching almost six million by 2030 (*Stats NZ)

This trend in growth will challenge us and be influenced by ecological limits and natural resource constraints, particularly diminishing supplies of oil worldwide, a changing climate, pressures on water supplies, reduction in arable land, the growing need for employment and access to affordable, liveable and enjoyable places.

The Urban Growth Agenda released in 2021 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga aims to remove barriers to the supply of land and infrastructure and make room for cities to grow.

Green Star Communities and the approach by Te Kaunihera Hanganga Tautaiāo New Zealand Green Building Council, acknowledges the challenges in identifying, developing and preserving Aotearoa New Zealand for our future generations, our tamariki and our mokopuna.

Positive outcomes for our tamariki and our mokopuna

► Barangaroo South, Sydney, Australia
NSW Government & Lendlease
6 star Green Star – Communities



- ❖ **Better planned and designed communities:** Developer motivations, local area demand and geographic factors mean that developments can take many forms. However, one metric which is critical to the success of any project, irrespective of all other variables, is good design process. This usually involves stakeholder engagement to ensure existing and future residents, and occupiers of the space have expressed their interests and concerns. Green Star Communities encourages international best practices for stakeholder engagement to ensure all communities and suggestions are valued.
- ❖ **More dynamic and vibrant communities:** Green Star – Communities seeks to reward projects that consider the vibrancy of a community during the design and delivery process
- ❖ **Healthier places to live, work and play:** A healthy community provides opportunities for residents and visitors to lead an active lifestyle, both through passive design features and the provision of amenities which encourage less vehicle-based transport and more physical forms of commuting.
- ❖ **Productive and prosperous communities:** Productivity can be influenced by the way our cities and communities are designed, such as proximity of housing to employment and education opportunities, access to digital infrastructure and time spent commuting. By addressing issues relating to productivity, other benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved lifestyles and economic resilience can result.
- ❖ **More flexible, adaptable and resilient communities:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is predicting that extreme weather events will become more frequent and more intense. Extreme weather events can affect the physical, economic and emotional well-being of a community. Green Star Communities rewards and encourages projects to conduct a climate adaption plan with stakeholder engagement to look at potential future risks for the community to ensure the hazards are identified and addressed.

Communities, defined

The term 'community' encompasses the ideas of precinct, place, neighbourhood or other geographic areas that may be used by stakeholders to describe their projects. Under Green Star, communities are made up of the following characteristics regardless of size and nature:

- ❖ **Infrastructure:** Systems and services which supply our energy and water, manage our waste, communications, technology and provide for mobility
- ❖ **Buildings:** Built form that accommodates activities associated with working, living and recreation, both public and private
- ❖ **Public realm:** Areas accessible to the public
- ❖ **People:** Those who may own, rent, occupy, visit, work, reside, recreate or interact in the area
- ❖ **Ecology:** Biological systems within the environment
- ❖ **Economy:** Systems supporting the production, exchange, distribution and consumption of goods and services
- ❖ **Governance:** Rules, behaviours and structures that shape and influence communities
- ❖ **Services:** Information and facilities that are available to people.

Each community will have its own boundary of influence and so projects should define the relevant boundary and dimensions of its influence for the above attributes. Whether it is a small precinct or a large city, the idea of community as defined by the five principles – enhance liveability, create opportunities for economic prosperity, foster environmental responsibility, embrace design excellence, and demonstrate visionary leadership and strong governance - should be applicable and scalable across many types of projects.

►
Alkimos Beach. Australia
Lendlease & Landcorp
6 star Green Star – Communities



Categories and credits



Governance

- ◆ Aims to encourage and recognise developers and projects that demonstrate leadership within the sector, by establishing and maintaining strong governance practices. The category promotes engagement, transparency, as well as community and industry capacity building. It also seeks to ensure that community projects are resilient to a changing climate.



Liveability

- ◆ Aims to encourage and recognise developments that deliver safe, accessible and culturally rich communities. The category encourages the development of healthy and active lifestyles, and rewards communities that have a high level of amenity, activity, and inclusiveness.



Environment

- ◆ Aims to reduce the impact of urban development on ecosystems. It encourages resource management and efficiency by promoting infrastructure, transport, and buildings, with reduced ecological footprints. The Environment category seeks to reduce the impacts of projects on land, water, and the atmosphere.



Economic prosperity

- ◆ Aims to encourage and recognise projects that promote prosperity and productivity. The category encourages affordable living and housing, investment in education and skills development, and community capacity building. This category also promotes greater productivity through emerging opportunities in the digital economy.



Innovation

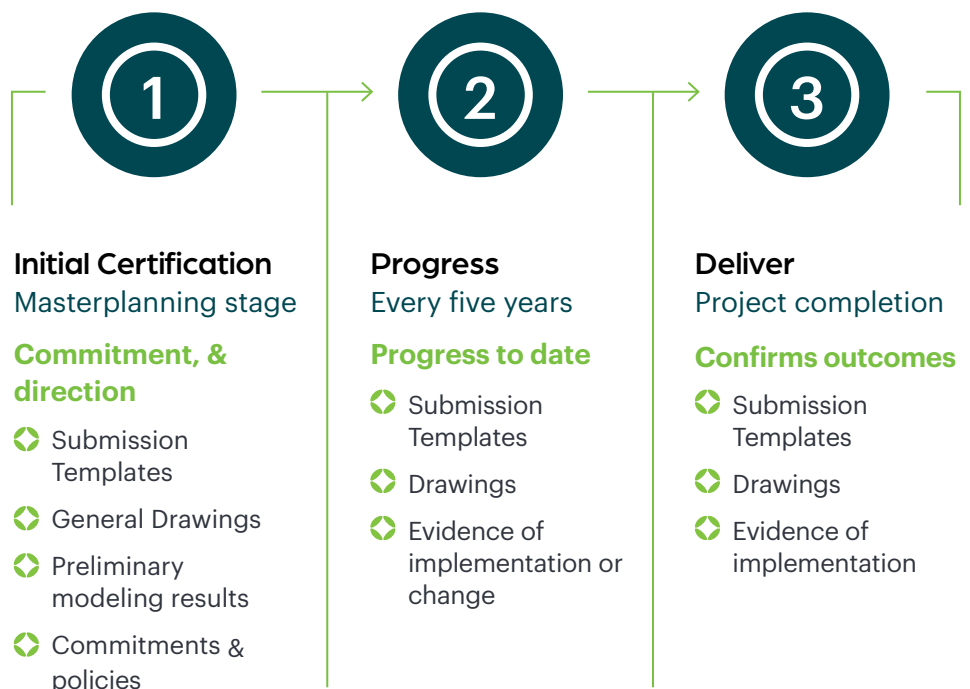
- ◆ Aims to recognise the implementation of innovative practices, processes and strategies that promote sustainability in the built environment.

Recertify Every Five Years

Precinct and land development projects are complex and can take a long time to deliver. For this reason, Green Star Communities certification lasts a maximum of five years, after which the project can recertify. This allows projects to re-assess their approach, improve on their approach, and be recognised for progress made in delivering on the ground.

While Green Star – Communities will continue to be updated, projects are recertified with the version of the rating tool under which they achieved their previous certification. As such, project teams are not subject to clarifications or amendments made as part of later revisions.

However projects may choose to upgrade to the most up-to-date version for their recertification.



- Ginninderry. Australia
Riverview Developments (ACT)
Pty Ltd & ACT Government
6 star Green Star – Communities



Related documents

Eligibility requirements	Green Star – Communities: Technical Clarification, CIR Rulings and Additional Guidance
Categories and credits	List of categories and credits for Green Star Communities
Project inception	To ensure that project teams embed the principles of Green Star Communities not the early project planning activities
Cross Claim, Design & As Built	Cross Claim Approach: Green Star – Communities and Green Star – Design & As Built
Credit and credit criteria substitution instructions	Outlines the process required for projects substituting credits or credit criteria from the latest versions of the Green Star tools
Substitution matrix	
UNSDGs	Green Star – Communities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Previous versions

While Green Star – Communities will continue to be updated, projects are recertified with the version of the rating tool under which they received their previous certification, unless they specifically choose to upgrade to the most up-to-date version of the tool.



For more information on adopting Green Star Communities to assess your project against a holistic set of environmental, social and economic criteria, contact;

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Green Star – Communities Case Study: Takapuna and Henderson, Aotearoa New Zealand (Eke Panuku Development, Auckland Council)

Takapuna and Henderson, Aotearoa New Zealand

DEVELOPER:

**Eke Panuku Development,
Auckland Council**

In December 2019, Auckland Council's Eke Panuku announced New Zealand's largest city has taken sustainable development to the next level with the country's first certified Green Star Community with not just one, but two 5 star Green Star Communities ratings for its Opanuku Precinct in Henderson, and Unlock Takapuna programme. As the major development arm of Auckland Council, Eke Panuku is helping shape the growing city's future and how those who live there interact and engage with their environment.

The ratings are the first of their kind to be completed in New Zealand, with both projects securing a 5 star Green Star rating.

The Henderson and Takapuna assessments performed exceptionally well under Liveability, Governance and Economic Prosperity. This recognised the physical environment and community infrastructure present in these projects as well as Panuku's influence, including placemaking, engagement, and best-practice design and sustainability expectations for development sites and the public realm.

Eke Panuku also obtained several Innovation credits, including Te Aranga Design, Financial Disclosure, and Exceeding Benchmarks for Investment in Community Infrastructure.

“

Given the urgency with which we need to act to address climate change, it's encouraging to see Panuku recognised for taking a sustainable approach to masterplanning,” he says.

Projects like this will help improve Auckland's ability to adapt to climate change and create better, healthier neighbourhoods for our communities.

Mayor Phil Goff
Auckland City Council Mayor 2019



Green Star – Communities Case Study: Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia (Curtin University)

Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

In 2020, Curtin University successfully pursued and achieved recertification with an improvement from 5 to 6 stars Green Star - Communities.

As Western Australia's largest university, the master plan is designed to transform the 114 ha Bentley Campus to a 'city of innovation' through urban regeneration over a 20-year period.

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To be the first university in Australia to receive this rating is a significant achievement.

Professor Deborah Terry
Curtin University Vice-Cancellor



CASE STUDY



Green Star – Communities Case Study: West Village, Brisbane Australia (Sekisui House)

West Village, Brisbane Australia

DEVELOPER:

Sekisui House

West Village project targets environmental, economic and social impact, giving new life to a heritage-listed ice cream factory, which spans 2.6 hectares. Brimming with cafes and casual dining, gardens and abundant open space, West Village transforms and connects the local community through a 6 star Green Star – Communities rating, demonstrating world leadership in urban renewal.

On an environmental scale, West Village is tackling key sustainability challenges such as carbon, biodiversity, water and waste through multiple touchpoints, which include:

- ❖ Rain water and grey water recycling system to 'drought-proof' the extensive gardens and public realm
- ❖ Targeting 'zero food waste to landfill' in their retail precinct through a food rescue program and organic waste recycling
- ❖ Improving biodiversity with native vegetation and bee hives
- ❖ LED lighting used throughout apartments and the public realm
- ❖ 100% of energy supplied to site carbon offset
- ❖ On-site energy generation including a 30kw solar PV system
- ❖ Delivering two new parks
- ❖ 10,000 plants including 10% deep planted trees
- ❖ 30% of the site dedicated to publicly accessible space
- ❖ 10 car-share vehicles and 6 electric vehicle charging stations
- ❖ 1600 bicycle parks and end-of-trip facilities
- ❖ A new community facility and childcare centre
- ❖ An on-site school of construction with an award-winning Indigenous participation program.

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Green Star pushes us to look at sustainability innovations and keeps our consultants focused on sustainability outcomes and compliance.

Natasha Mulcahy

West Village Sustainability & Engagement Manager

Green Building
Council Australia



greenstar



NZGBC

TE KAUNIHERA HANGANGA TAUTIAO