

Sustainability Summit

The below answer sheet is for your own self-assessment. Please keep your completed questionnaires and answers on file for your record.

Sustainability Certifications & Compliance - Why This Means Everything For Your Business

1. How do we discern the differences between building certification schemes like, NatHERS, NABERS, BASIX, Green Star, etc. What are they and which are regulatory, and which are voluntary?

Rating systems	Green star	NatHERS	NABERS	BASIX
Developer	Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Australian Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), now administrated by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate	New South Wales Government
Rating building type	Education Healthcare Industrial Multi-unit residential Accommodation Retail Convention centre/public buildings (pilots) office	Residential house	Data centre Office building Office tenancy Business hotel Shopping House	Single household Multi-family building Commercial buildings
Scope of application	Australia Nation wide	Australia Nation wide	Australia Nation wide	NSW
Requirement	Voluntary	Minimum 6-star rating for new constructed house and apartment.	Voluntary	Compulsory for all new state-of-the-art residential buildings and for renovations that are greater than \$50,000 or involve new pools
Assessment method	Indicator based system	Simulation based system	Both indicator and simulation-based system	Indicator based system
Assessed aspects	Management Quality of indoor environment Energy Transportation Water Materials Use of land and ecosystem Pollution emissions Innovation	Energy	Energy Water Waste Indoor environment	Water Thermal comfort Energy
Strengths	Widest assessment range covering every stage of construction.	Enhanced simulation engine can provide scientific assessments.	Focus on the actual performance of buildings	Reduce the consumptions of water and energy and improve thermal comfort
Weaknesses	Long assessing period: 24 months	Assessment for energy only. File format limitation of software tools.	The certificate is only valid for one year, which means such assessment need to do annually.	Limited to residential buildings.

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2. What sustainability issues does the latest NCC update cover?

The latest NCC update encompasses several sustainability issues across residential and commercial areas. In residential energy efficiency, new requirements involve raising thermal performance requirements to 7 stars under NatHERS and introducing a Whole-of-Home Rating for heating, cooling, and other systems, emphasizing sustainability. Commercial energy efficiency standards include facilitating future installation of renewables and electric vehicle charging, expanding NABERS Energy Verification Method, and introducing DTS Provisions for electric vehicle charging equipment and solar photovoltaics. Additionally, improvements in condensation management involve adding a mold index, DTS Provisions for vapour permeance, and enhanced ventilation requirements for certain spaces. These measures aim to enhance sustainability and energy efficiency while addressing condensation issues, which can be mitigated through high-quality window solutions like low-conductivity, insulated glass and warm-edge spacers to reduce condensation. Double glazing and effective thermal spacer bars play a crucial role in improving overall energy performance and reducing moisture-related problems.

3. What do the Voluntary Schemes like Green Star and WELL cover?

Voluntary schemes like Green Star and WELL cover various aspects of sustainable building and human well-being. Green Star, established by the Green Building Council of Australia in 2003, is an internationally recognized rating system that focuses on:

- Reducing the impact of climate change
- Enhancing health and quality of life
- Restoring and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems
- Driving resiliency in buildings, fitouts, and communities
- Contributing to market transformation and a sustainable economy. Green Star has certified numerous sustainable projects across Australia.

The WELL Building Standard is a performance-based system aimed at measuring, certifying, and monitoring aspects of the built environment that impact human health and well-being. This holistic approach addresses behavior, operations, and design to ensure that buildings prioritize people's health and wellness. WELL focuses on seven core concepts, including air quality, water, nourishment, lighting, fitness, comfort, and mental well-being. These voluntary schemes play a significant role in promoting sustainability and creating healthier environments for occupants.

4. What is the 'Responsible Product Framework' and how does it engage rating tools, products and certification schemes?

The 'Responsible Product Framework' is an evaluation system for building materials and products, assessing their environmental impact and sustainability. It collaborates with rating tools, products, and certification programs to advance responsible and sustainable construction practices. Guided by the Responsible Products Guidelines, the framework encompasses five categories: Responsible, Healthy, Positive, Circular, and Leadership. The Responsible Products program evaluates certifying initiatives and assigns a 'Responsible Product Value' (RPV) based on their compliance with criteria. These RPVs are then associated with the products certified by these initiatives. Project teams registered with Green Star can use the Responsible Products calculator to apply for responsible product credits, providing data on compliant and non-compliant products, their costs, and proof of purchase. The Green Building Council of Australia employs this framework to promote the adoption of environmentally friendly and sustainable products within the building and construction industry.