

FAQs

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General

WHAT IS GREEN STAR?

Created by our friends at Green Building Council Australia (GBCA) and adapted for Aotearoa New Zealand, Green Star is Australasia's largest voluntary and truly holistic sustainability rating system for buildings, fitouts and communities.

Green Star aims to transform the built environment by:

- reducing the impact of climate change
- enhancing our health & quality of life
- restoring and protecting our planet's biodiversity and ecosystems
- driving resilient outcomes for buildings, fitouts, and communities
- contributing to market transformation and a sustainable economy

WHY WAS GREEN STAR DEVELOPED?

Green Star was developed for the property industry to:

- Establish a common language;
- Set a standard of measurement for sustainable buildings;
- Promote integrated, whole-building design;
- Recognise environmental leadership;
- Identify building life-cycle impacts; and
- Raise awareness of sustainable building benefits.

WHY SHOULD I CERTIFY MY PROJECT?

- **Alignment with an organisational value and vision** – Adopting “equivalence” is not a leadership position. Adopting third-party certification will allow a building owner to celebrate the building and show leadership. “Equivalence” will not.
- **Independent certification of the performance achieved** – Certification is a robust way to determine the performance achieved. How will the developer or building owner know that the completed building is green without a 3rd party assessment?

A building developer may be spending money on innovative design, quality construction processes, without receiving the final authentic certification that recognises these efforts. It is not a good use of time and funds to miss the certification and recognition that would normally result from these efforts.

- **Buildings that work better** - The main engineers and project management firms state that certification leads to a more integrated design and healthier buildings. Without certification, elements often drop off during project delivery.

Without certification, green design and technologies are often value engineered out so that

the final building does not bear a resemblance to the values committed to at the beginning. Green star verification ensures they stay. since they are needed to meet certification.

- **Certifying makes green simple to understand** - Most people and even many engineers find it hard to follow the jargon or to know if a building is green and sustainable. The Green Star rating solves this. 4 star is good, 5 star is NZ Leading, and 6 star is World Leading.
- **Financial benefits** – Certification provides assurance to potential tenants and purchasers as to the quality and efficiency that they can expect from the building. Certified buildings have been shown to retain their value longer, have lower vacancy rates, and command higher rents.

A building or community certified to Green Star has proven it meets the best practice sustainable design and build benchmarks. With transparent, robust, and independent assessment, we work to combat the risk of 'greenwashing' and distinguish those who are truly doing the mahi.

Taking up a voluntary Green Star certification demonstrates leadership, innovation, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Green Star continues to evolve in collaboration with the industry to ensure it incorporates new thinking, best practice, and meets the needs of the market.

There's a lot to consider when it comes to creating healthy and sustainable spaces. Green Star takes a holistic approach, considering not just direct environmental impacts like materials or water use, but broader transport, indoor environment quality, and management implications of a project.

If you are looking for more resources to make a case, they can be found through this link:

<https://nzgbc.org.nz/research-and-reports>

HOW MANY GREEN STAR TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE?

The four Green Star tools listed below are currently available to accommodate the needs of different types of projects at different stages:

- Green Star Buildings – for new buildings
- Green Star Interiors – for new fitouts
- Green Star Communities – for new precinct-scale developments
- Green Star Performance – for existing buildings

For details, please visit the [Introduction webpage](#) for Green Star.

WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER A PROJECT?

For all but Green Star Performance, registration should occur as soon as you are aware the project is likely to commit to certification.

Early registration ensures that the NZGBC can assign a dedicated member of our team to assist you through the certification process. It also helps to set up a clear target for project teams to pursue

and hence lays a firm basis for sustainable design and construction.

Projects are reminded that they must each receive certification within 3 years of registering their project (this includes a Design Review/ Designed Assessment).

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR A GREEN STAR RATING?

Registration sets out to formalize the arrangement with the NZGBC for an assessment and certification to occur. Once registered, the NZGBC can support your project through the certification process and answer questions about the application of Green Star on your project through an assigned NZGBC Technical Coordinator.

Registration is complete when the following has been done:

- You have checked the Eligibility criteria and completed your [online project registration](#) (we recommend that you engage a qualified Green Star professional to guide you through this process. See our [professionals directory](#))
- The Certification Fee has been paid

WHY AND HOW DO I FIND A GREEN STAR ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL (GSAP) TO HELP ME WITH MY RATING?

Green Star Accredited Professionals (or GSAPs) have the skills to work on projects targeting Green Star and make high-quality submissions as part of the rating. They help ensure the entire assessment process is a smooth, cost-effective and rewarding experience for all involved. A project team that includes a GSAP from the very beginning receives one bonus point towards their Green Star score.

All Green Star Accredited Professionals can be found [here](#)

Note that there are three different GSAP qualifications as listed below. Please make sure you choose the right person who can assist with your project type.

- Green Star Buildings – for new buildings
- Green Star Communities – for new precinct-scale developments
- Green Star Performance - for existing buildings
- Green Star Interiors - Green Star for your building fitout

If you would like to become a GSAP, please check out our [Green Star Training](#)

WHAT ARE THE GREEN STAR CERTIFICATION FEES?

The Green Star Certification fee is dependent on a few variables, such as what tool is to be used, the project's contract value, and whether your organisation is an NZGBC member. A full rundown of the certification fees can be found on [individual certification pages](#).

The following items are included as part of NZGBC's standard certification services:

- Support for your project from the Certification team.

- Assessment of your project by independent assessors.
- An individualised certificate confirming certification.
- Once certified, a license to use the Green Star trademark to promote your project. For more information, refer to the Green Star [brand guidelines](#).

The following items are NOT included in the certification fee:

- Project-specific in-depth technical assistance. This is typically done by the project's GSAP.
- Additional items required for a project to receive Green Star certification, including energy modelling, daylight modelling and water-efficient appliances and hardware as examples.

HOW CAN I KNOW WHICH PROJECTS ARE CERTIFIED?

Certified Green Star projects can be found [here](#).

There are many more projects that have been registered but have not been certified yet.

HOW CAN I KNOW WHICH PROJECTS ARE REGISTERED?

This is normally announced through our member newsletters once we receive the building owner's consent to publicise it.

CAN I PROMOTE MY PROJECT IF IT IS REGISTERED FOR GREEN STAR, BUT NOT YET CERTIFIED?

Before achieving certification, you can promote your Green Star registered project in writing but cannot use the Green Star logo or Green Star certification trademark.

The Green Star certification trademark can only be used once the project is certified. Please [get in touch](#) if you have not received the appropriate logos upon certification.

[Download our Brand Guidelines](#)

Acceptable ways to market that your project has been registered is using the following example wording: "This project is targeting a Green Star – Design & As Built rating."

If a project is not registered with NZGBC for a Green Star rating, it cannot make any statements referring to Green Star.

Any unauthorised use of NZGBC's trademarks may result in legal action.

HOW DOES GREEN STAR ALIGN OR COMPETE WITH OTHER TYPES OF CERTIFICATIONS?

NZGBC supports all green building initiatives that are positively pushing the market to embrace such initiatives. The Green Star rating tool has been adapted to the New Zealand market with a focus on local issues. It is holistic and only applies to commercial/non-residential buildings (including offices,

industrial buildings, hotels, schools and hospitals, etc.), fitouts and communities, whereas others may focus on one specific issue or on residential projects. The ranking structure also allows Green Star to provide stepping stones to enable market transformation and balance aspiration with achievability. All the third-party certified green building rating tools play a positive role in the market to serve different purposes, rather than being in competition with each other. With all of that said, NZGBC strongly discourages organisations from spending additional time and resources to create another green building rating tool. The industry is familiar with and understands Green Star here in New Zealand.

The following is some guidance relating to specific NZGBC rating tools:

- [**NABERSNZ**](#): NABERSNZ is a rating tool that focuses specifically on energy use in commercial office buildings. It is a rating tool that NZGBC administers for EECA. NABERSNZ is complementary to Green Star Performance, in which NABERSNZ certification can be (and should be) used as the means of demonstrating compliance for the energy credit. The NABERSNZ Star rating level will align with a certain number of points within this credit. The energy credit within Green Star Performance represents 23 of the 100 points of the tool, so the other 77 points cover other operational aspects of buildings, such as management of stormwater systems, materials procurement, etc.

NABERSNZ certification is the first step to undertake when a commercial office building wishes to target Green Star Performance.

It should be noted that NABERSNZ is not designed for use during the construction phase of a project as a substitute for Green Star certification. Green Star at the construction phase ensures that the building has been designed for operational energy performance, and covers other impacts of the construction phase, such as construction waste, water efficiency and materials selection.

- [**Homestar**](#): Homestar is an independent rating tool for assessing the health, efficiency, and sustainability of new (or very extensively refurbished existing) homes across Aotearoa.
- **Net Zero Buildings**: For building owners and portfolio managers looking for an entry point to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and a low carbon future, the latest development in low carbon certification for New Zealand's existing buildings is here

Net Zero Buildings certification tracks all major sources of carbon emissions in building operations – energy, water, waste and refrigerants.

Once measured, you can better manage, reduce, then offset, providing stakeholders including owners, investors, tenants and finance providers insight into the building's impact on the environment. Ultimately, you're providing assurance of your commitment to low or no negative impact on the environment.

- [**HomeFit**](#) – For existing homeowners, HomeFit is a no-nonsense, straightforward way to check if an existing home is warm, safe and dry.

DO I HAVE TO MAKE MY GREEN STAR RATING PUBLIC?

Although highly encouraged, projects are not required to make their ratings public.

WHAT IS NZGBC DOING TO LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE THE BUILDING CODE?

It is well recognised that the New Zealand Building Code needs some improvement. In March 2017 NZGBC published a [policy document](#) advocating that the Government:

- work with the sector to establish a national roadmap for better homes and buildings.
- lead with their own portfolio of homes and buildings.
- facilitate better buildings and homes through the levers they have, thereby facilitating improved quality at a time when density is increasing.

NZGBC was then invited to Wellington to present to ministers, where three challenges were laid down for the Government:

- Improve the building code
- Lead by example by certifying the Government's own buildings to Green Star,
- Homestar and NABERSNZ
- Mandate the requirement for energy labelling of commercial office buildings with NABERSNZ

NZGBC regularly meets with MBIE in order to make the case for improving the building code. Given that the process to improve the Building Code and then to enforce these improvements will take years to implement, NZGBC is strongly advocating for the use of Homestar, Green Star and NABERSNZ in the meantime, to ensure that buildings constructed and operating during these years of transition are constructed to a better standard.

Even with a change in the Building Code, the changes are likely to be incremental and may not address all the issues currently covered within NZGBC's rating tools. With any changes to the Building Code in future, NZGBC will review how these may impact the criteria set within the rating tools.

NZGBC continues to strongly lobby Government to lead by example and require certification of their own buildings, which will likely be a catalyst for improvements across the sector.

DO YOU HAVE TRAINING FOR GREEN STAR?

Yes. We have all sorts of training that is fit for different purposes. Training information can be found through this [link](#). Alternatively, please feel free to contact our education team for more training options at education@nzgbc.org.nz.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PARTICULAR CREDIT?

Submission Guidelines contain detailed information on credit requirements, documentation requirements, calculations, referenced standards and other resources.

If you are an NZGBC member looking for more details about a specific credit, please use your member login for the NZGBC website to download the free Submission Guidelines.

If you are not an NZGBC member, please contact greenstarnz@nzgbc.org.nz to purchase the

Submission Guidelines at \$600+gst per copy (electronic copy only).

DO YOU HAVE GREEN STAR CASE STUDIES?

Yes, we do. They can be found through [this link](#).

New Buildings

WHICH TOOL SHOULD I USE TO RATE A NEW BUILDING?

Our newest Green Star rating tool, Buildings helps guide the sustainable design and construction of any new commercial build or major refurbishment from schools and offices, to industrial facilities, shopping centres, hospitals and public buildings. Note: this tool has superseded the previous Green Star Design & As-Built NZ tool.

IS GREEN STAR BUILDINGS JUST FOR OFFICES? WHAT ABOUT MIXED-USE BUILDINGS?

Green Star Buildings helps guide the sustainable design and construction of any new commercial/non-residential build or major refurbishment from schools and offices to industrial facilities, shopping centres, hospitals and public buildings.

Please contact the NZGBC if you are considering rating a mixed-use building so that we can guide you in the right direction depending on the specifics of your project.

IS MY PROJECT ELIGIBLE FOR A GREEN STAR RATING?

All buildings aiming to achieve a Green Star Buildings rating are subject to a number of [eligibility criteria](#).

CAN I CERTIFY PART OF A BUILDING?

Yes, sections or fitouts of a building can be rated using the Green Star Interiors tool. Please refer to the [Green Star Interiors section](#) for more information.

CAN I CERTIFY MULTIPLE BUILDINGS AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE SERVED BY SHARED SYSTEMS SUCH AS A DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM?

Yes, there are two different approaches that can be used for certifying multiple buildings under differing circumstances. These are:

- Multiple Building Single Rating - this refers to the process of certifying multiple buildings under one single certification. More information can be found [here](#).

- Volume Certification - a customised service to certify a group of projects that share similar features. More information can be found [here](#).

CAN I GET A 1 STAR, 2 STAR OR 3 STAR RATING FOR NEW BUILDINGS?

To be certified under Green Star Design & As Built, Buildings, Fitouts or Communities, a building must achieve at least a 4 star built rating or 'New Zealand Best Practice'. Buildings certifying under Green Star Performance can achieve a 1 star to 6 star rating.

HOW LONG DOES MY GREEN STAR CERTIFICATION LAST FOR?

The following timing requirements are applicable to all registered projects:

Green Star Design & As Built, Buildings, Fitouts and Communities:

- Built certified ratings must be achieved within 24 months of practical completion.
- Built certified ratings do not expire.
- Design Review and Designed Assessment certified ratings must be submitted before practical completion.
- Design Review and Designed Assessment certified ratings will expire when either of the following occurs:
 - The project achieves a Built certified rating, or;
 - The project reaches 24 months post practical completion.

I'M DOING SOMETHING SUSTAINABLE WITH MY BUILDING THAT'S NOT RECOGNISED IN THE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES CAN I GET RECOGNISED FOR MY INITIATIVE?

Yes. They can be potentially recognised under the Innovation category of Green Star. NZGBC offers a preliminary review for each innovative idea. This process gives surety and guidance to help your project in seeking innovation points. Up to a maximum of ten innovation submissions can be targeted across all three innovation criteria.

WHY ARE THERE ASSESSMENTS AT BOTH THE DESIGN STAGE AND AFTER PRACTICAL COMPLETION?

The Green Star Design & As Built and Green Star Buildings tools give project teams the option to undertake a voluntary assessment of the project's design before practical completion. This can provide project teams with a valuable opportunity to seek feedback from the Certified Assessor(s) and to ensure the project is on track to achieve the Green Star rating. To maximise the value of this feedback, it is strongly recommended that the assessment is conducted with enough time to influence the project's final design.

All projects must submit for a compulsory Certified rating as well, which needs to be achieved within 24 months post practical completion. Once achieved, this rating will allow project teams to market their building as being Green Star Certified and to access all the marketing benefits that come with

this.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER A NEW BUILDING UNDER THE DESIGN & AS BUILT TOOL?

Registrations of new projects under Green Star Design & As Built NZ v1.1 are now closed. All new registrations are now under the new [Green Star Buildings NZ tool](#).

Existing Buildings

IS MY PROJECT ELIGIBLE FOR A GREEN STAR PERFORMANCE RATING?

All buildings aiming to achieve a Green Star Performance rating are subject to a number of eligibility criteria. They can be found in the registration form through [this link](#).

DO YOU ONLY CERTIFY NEW BUILDINGS? WHICH TOOL SHOULD I USE TO RATE AN EXISTING BUILDING?

Green Star Performance is designed to be used for existing buildings to show your building's leadership. There is also NABERSNZ, which rates the energy and water performance of existing offices and the Net Zero Buildings tool, which certifies buildings that minimise carbon emissions through Green Star Performance or NABERSNZ and then offset all remaining emissions.

CAN I CERTIFY PART OF A BUILDING?

Yes, you can choose the whole or base building approach for existing building projects.

CAN I CERTIFY MULTIPLE BUILDINGS AT THE SAME TIME?

The Green Star Performance rating tool has been developed with the knowledge that many buildings are operated as part of a broader campus or portfolio. A customised volume certification has been developed for groups of buildings that exist in a portfolio or are managed centrally on a campus. Please refer to the following link for more [information](#).

IS GREEN STAR PERFORMANCE JUST FOR OFFICES? WHAT ABOUT MIXED-USE BUILDINGS?

Like the Green Star Buildings tool, Green Star – Performance is inclusive, by rating buildings beyond just commercial office buildings, including schools, shopping centres, public buildings, industrial buildings and hospitals.

CAN I GET A 1 STAR, 2 STAR OR 3 STAR RATING FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS?

Green Star Performance certifies buildings at all levels. This allows building owners and facilities management teams to set building-specific benchmarks from which they can improve over time.

HOW LONG DOES MY GREEN STAR PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION LAST FOR?

Three years. Check submission guidelines for Green Star Performance for more details on timelines regarding measuring and certification.

WHAT IS PERFORMANCE PERIOD? CAN A PERFORMANCE PERIOD END AFTER THE DATE OF SUBMISSION?

The performance period is 12 consecutive months from which data will be drawn for the purposes of the project's Green Star – Performance rating tool assessment. A performance period may not end in the future, relative to the project submission date for assessment.

DOES THE NABERSNZ RATED PERIOD NEED TO ALIGN WITH THE PERFORMANCE PERIOD IN GREEN STAR – PERFORMANCE?

Yes, as closely as possible.

Projects that are pursuing any NABERSNZ pathway in Green Star - Performance must align the rated period of the NABERSNZ rating with the performance period of the Green Star - Performance rating as closely as possible, within three months either side of the performance period.

For example, if the performance period is 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 for Green Star - Performance, the 12-month NABERSNZ rated period must fall within 1st October 2024 to 31st March 2026.

The NABERSNZ Certificate and report must be provided as part of the submission.

CAN MULTIPLE POLICIES BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE A CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY POLICY?

Yes. It is acceptable for projects to demonstrate compliance with the Corporate Responsibility criterion through a combination of policies.

Each nominated policy must be publicly available and adopted at an executive or board level.

To demonstrate that a set of nominated policies are collectively equivalent to a Corporate Responsibility Policy, project applicants need to provide extracts from the nominated documents to demonstrate how the seven core subjects, detailed in ISO 26000, are addressed. These core subjects are outlined on page 90 of the Green Star - Communities v1.1 Submission Guidelines.

Interiors

IS MY PROJECT ELIGIBLE FOR A GREEN STAR INTERIORS RATING?

Green Star Interiors eligibility criteria can be found through [this link](#). All projects aiming to achieve a rating are subject to these eligibility criteria.

IS GREEN STAR INTERIORS JUST FOR OFFICES? WHAT ABOUT OTHER TYPES OF FITOUTS?

Like Green Star Buildings, Green Star Interiors is inclusive, by rating interior fitouts beyond just commercial offices, including schools, stores, warehouses, and hospitals etc.

IS GREEN STAR INTERIORS JUST FOR NEW FITOUTS?

Yes. Only new fitouts can be certified under Green Star Interiors.

CAN I CERTIFY MULTIPLE FITOUTS AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes, volume certification can be used for certifying multiple fitouts managed under one portfolio. It is a customised service to certify a group of projects that share similar features. Please refer to the following link for more [information](#):

CAN I GET A 1 STAR, 2 STAR OR 3 STAR RATING FOR NEW FITOUTS?

To be certified a fitout must achieve at least a 4 star rating or 'New Zealand Best Practice'.

HOW LONG DOES MY GREEN STAR INTERIORS CERTIFICATION LAST FOR?

The following timing requirements are applicable to all registered projects:

- Built certified ratings must be achieved within 24 months of practical completion.
- Built certified ratings do not expire.
- Design Review certified ratings must be achieved before practical completion.
- Design Review certified ratings will expire when either of the following occurs:
 - The project achieves a Built certified rating, or;
 - The project reaches 24 months post practical completion.

I'M DOING SOMETHING SUSTAINABLE WITH MY FITOUTS THAT'S NOT RECOGNISED IN THE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES, CAN I GET RECOGNISED FOR MY INITIATIVE?

Yes. They can be potentially recognised under the Innovation category of Green Star. NZGBC offers a preliminary review for each innovative idea. This process gives surety and guidance to help your project in seeking innovation points. Up to a maximum of ten innovation submissions can be targeted across all three innovation criteria.

Communities

WHAT IS GREEN STAR COMMUNITIES? CAN I GET A RATING UNDER GREEN STAR COMMUNITIES FOR A BUILDING?

No, you cannot get a Green Star Communities rating for a building. Green Star – Communities is a rating tool that evaluates the sustainability attributes of the planning, design, and construction of large-scale development projects, at a precinct, neighbourhood, and/or community scale.

IS MY PROJECT ELIGIBLE FOR A GREEN STAR COMMUNITIES RATING?

There are four eligibility criteria for Green Star Communities, to be eligible for an assessment under the Green Star- Communities rating tool, the project must meet all these criteria. More details about communities' eligibility criteria can be found through [this link](#).

CAN I CERTIFY MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes, volume certification can be used for certifying multiple communities managed under one portfolio. It is a customised service to certify a group of projects that share similar features. Please refer to the following link for more [information](#):

CAN I GET A 1 STAR, 2 STAR OR 3 STAR RATING FOR MY COMMUNITY PROJECT?

A community may achieve the points associated with a 1, 2 or 3 star rating but cannot be certified under this star rating. To be certified a community must achieve at least a 4 star rating or 'New Zealand Best Practice'.

CAN I GET A RATING FOR A PROJECT THAT WILL BE STAGED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

Yes. Green Star Communities has been developed with the ability to rate staged projects through a combination of initial certification and recertification. More details with regards to the certification timing can be found through [this link](#).

I'M DOING SOMETHING SUSTAINABLE WITH MY PROJECT THAT'S NOT RECOGNISED IN THE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES. CAN I GET RECOGNISED FOR MY INITIATIVE?

Yes. They it can potentially be recognised under the Innovation category of Green Star. NZGBC offers a preliminary review for each innovative idea. This process gives surety and guidance to help your project in seeking innovation points. Up to a maximum of ten innovation submission points can be targeted across all three innovation criteria.

CAN MULTIPLE POLICIES BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE A CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY POLICY?

Yes. It is acceptable for projects to demonstrate compliance with the Corporate Responsibility criterion through a combination of policies.

Each nominated policy must be publicly available and be adopted at an executive or board level.

To demonstrate that a set of nominated policies is collectively equivalent to a Corporate Responsibility Policy, project applicants need to provide extracts from the nominated documents to demonstrate how the seven core subjects, detailed in ISO 26000, are addressed. These core subjects are outlined on page 90 of the Green Star - Communities v1.1 Submission Guidelines.

Products, Materials & Contractors

DOES NZGBC CERTIFY PRODUCTS & MATERIALS?

The New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) does not test, review or certify products or materials. Instead, third-party certification bodies are relied upon for testing and environmental assessments of products and materials that are being claimed within the Materials category credits in each of our rating tools. Different product and materials certification schemes are given different weightings within the Green Star rating tools, dependent upon how comprehensive the certification criteria are, how independent the certification is, whether it is product-specific, and whether it requires that certain performance benchmarks are met.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PRODUCTS & MATERIALS?

The NZGBC events and education team run a regular Products & Materials webinar series that focuses on a different topic each time. Be sure to check them out [here](#).

DO WE HAVE TO BE A MEMBER WITH NZGBC IN ORDER TO GET OUR

PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS RECOGNISED BY THE SUITE OF TOOLS MANAGED BY THE NZGBC?

No, you do not need to be an NZGBC member to get the recognition of your products and materials. Green Star only focuses on products and materials' sustainability attributes. Membership benefits can be found [here](#).

CAN I CLAIM A PRODUCT IN MORE THAN ONE MATERIALS CREDIT?

Yes, in most cases. Under the Green Star Design & As Built, projects may use the same materials for the 'Life Cycle Impacts', 'Responsible Building Materials' and 'Sustainable Products' credits. Likewise, under Green Star Buildings, projects may use the same materials across the 'Responsible' and 'Positive' credits

The products or materials that are being used to claim points for the 'Sustainable Products' credit must have an additional Transparency or Sustainability Initiative in addition to meeting the requirements of the other credits.

Please refer to Guidance under the 'Sustainable Products' credit in the Submission Guidelines of the relevant rating tool for further information. At present, the Green Star Design & As Built Submission Guidelines indicate that this option is available for 'Life Cycle Impacts' criteria, and it is clarified that products used in the 'Life Cycle Assessment' criterion may also be targeted in 'Sustainable Products' provided the conditions outlined above are met.

For Green Star Buildings and Homestar, the Responsible Products programme has been developed to reward products that have been recognised by existing approved product certification schemes. The programme doesn't certify products for the Green Star and Homestar tools directly, but instead it recognises those products that are certified by an existing product certification initiative and then calculates a Responsible Product Value (RPV) to be used towards Green Star or Homestar credits.

Projects registered under Green Star Design and As Built may also use the Responsible Products Framework in lieu of the NZGBC's Framework for Product Certification Scheme for the 'Sustainable Products' credit.

More details about the Responsible Products Framework can be found [here](#).

HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH AUDITING REQUIREMENTS OF THE BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR PVC?

For the auditing requirements of the Best Practice Guidelines for PVC, an appropriate method of compliance can be a simple statement that a limited assurance review according to ASAE 3100 Compliance Engagements has been completed.

I AM A MANUFACTURER, SUPPLIER, ENGINEER, ARCHITECT, OR CONSULTANT AND HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE GREEN STAR DOCUMENTATION. WHAT DOCUMENTATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

This information can be found in the Compliance Requirements sections within the relevant

Submission Guidelines.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Green Star Accredited Professional involved in the project for specific requirements for the project.

Please be aware that there are a few Green Star rating tools. Each Green Star rating tool requires specific documentation related to that tool. Please find out which rating tool the project is being assessed for, to determine what documentation is required.

I AM A CONTRACTOR. WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT GREEN STAR?

We have an in-depth Green Star for Contractors training course. More information on this can be accessed at our Events and Training page [here](#). Likewise, should you want to learn more about any of our tools, we have all sorts of training that suitable for different purposes. Alternatively, please feel free to contact our education team for more training options at education@nzgbc.org.nz .

Other

NZGBC welcomes all feedback - industry engagement is critical to the evolution and improvement of the Green Star suite of tools. Where issues or challenges are identified within Green Star, we encourage people to get involved and help us improve. NZGBC relies on a network of expertise to make continuous improvements to our tools.

You are warmly encouraged to contact us for assistance at any time. We would prefer to know about an issue that is being faced and help to resolve it and be proactive about providing clear guidance, rather than have project teams toil away unaided and uncertain. Sometimes questions do need to be formalised as 'Technical Questions', which helps us to understand the question completely. It also enables us to provide a clear response or clarification that is often useful to all project teams. If you are unsure about a question and whether it needs to be formalised, please do not hesitate to contact us at greenstarnz@nzgbc.org.nz.