



www.yourbuilding.org

Australia's national online resource with real answers to your questions about sustainable commercial buildings.

Why Your Building?

Buildings have a significant impact on the environment. On a whole-of-life basis, they consume 32% of the world's resources, including 12% of the water used and up to 40% of the energy. Activities around buildings produce 40% of waste going to landfill and 40% of air emissions. In Australia, commercial buildings produce 10% of national greenhouse emissions and therefore have a major part to play in meeting greenhouse targets.

Commercial buildings also influence social and business outcomes. They are an investment and a cost, can express an organisation's identity and image, contribute to reputation and profitability, affect occupant health, and shape – and are shaped by – behaviour. They also impact the community through the amenities they provide, the activities they house, and their physical presence.

All of these factors relate directly to social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The Your Building web portal is the key online Australian resource about sustainable commercial buildings. It provides information for all those involved across the building life cycle – from investors, owners and occupiers to developers, builders, designers and facility managers.

Up to date and reliable

The articles on Your Building have been written and reviewed by leading researchers and industry experts to ensure that the content is as reliable and current as possible. The interactivity of the site means that information can be kept up to date on the latest trends and issues.

Comprehensive and relevant

Your Building has articles about energy and water efficiency and effectiveness, sustainable products and materials, industry processes, sustainable buildings and productivity. There are feature case studies in which industry participants talk about their experiences in achieving Australia's most sustainable buildings, and links to other leading websites.

User friendly and interactive

Your Building features user-friendly web technologies. The site is built as a wiki, a collaborative website which potentially can be directly edited by anyone with access to it. While some limits will be in place to manage access, as a registered user you will have the opportunity to submit your own articles, links, images and case studies, to comment on and rate existing articles, tag your favourites, and create your own page.

Good for business

Your Building outlines in clear and convincing language how sustainable practices lead to profitable and sustainable businesses and business decisions. Users of the site will also be better able to communicate the benefits of sustainable commercial buildings to clients and colleagues.



Top: 50 Lonsdale St, Melbourne – Solar panels for tempered hot water for showers

About Your Building

Collaboration

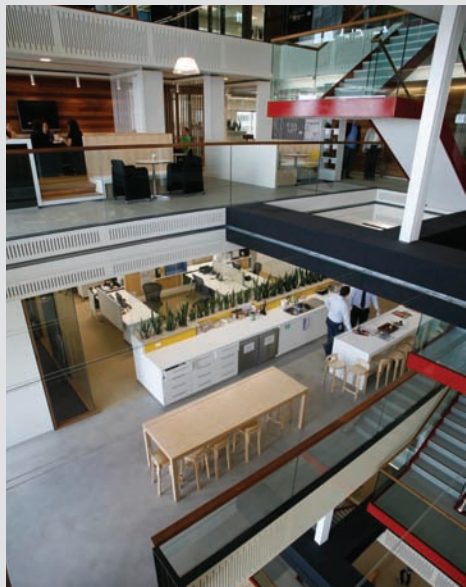
Your Building is a collaborative project of the Cooperative Research Centre for *Construction Innovation*, the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources, and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), a peak body of key organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia.

Highly relevant content

The design and development of the portal content and web platform were informed by intensive industry consultation, and guided by a steering committee from the project partners. The foundation content on the site has been authored and reviewed by specialist researchers and industry practitioners. It is aligned with the industry's needs and structured to enable a high level of personal input, interaction and exchange.

Changing behaviours

The ultimate objective of the portal is to change behaviours towards more sustainable outcomes right across the commercial buildings industry. To do this the site has been consciously designed to provide both 'hard'



Staff breakout space at Stockland offices, Sydney

technical and 'soft' strategic and cultural information. It explains how individuals and organisations can profit from sustainable commercial buildings, and illustrates efficiency and effectiveness opportunities that will help deliver better social, environmental and economic performance.



Two lower images:
Photography Erica
Lauthier. Courtesy of
Department of the
Environment and
Water Resources

Office interior of Lincoln Scott

Homepage

FEATURE BUILDING IMAGE
Have your sustainable building or fit out featured

BANNER AD
Promote your company

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'Your Building', a website dedicated to sustainable commercial buildings. The header is green with the site's logo and navigation links: Home, About, Sponsors, Glossary, How to use this site, Search, and a login/signup area. A banner ad for Deckform is featured at the top right. The main content area is divided into several sections: a featured building image of 1 Bligh Street, Sydney; a 'Popular Content' section with an article on the definition of sustainable commercial buildings; a 'Recent Additions' section with an article on the business context of sustainable commercial buildings; and a 'Submit an Article' section. A right sidebar contains 'Categories' and 'Features' lists. The footer includes logos for Project Partners (Australian Government, CRC Construction Innovation), Sponsors (Stockland, Connell Wagner, architectus, Lighton), and a 'Project Partners' section describing research, industry, and government collaboration.

YOUR BUILDING
PROFITS FROM SUSTAINABILITY

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1 Bligh Street, Sydney
Featuring a fully glazed double skin façade, this building has been designed to achieve a 6 star Green Star rating - [more](#)

Popular Content
Definition of sustainable commercial buildings
Posted by Patrick Burke 27 Aug 2007
This article defines sustainable commercial buildings and discusses some of the features you can expect a building to have.
[Categories: article, sustainable_commercial_buildings](#)

The business context of sustainable commercial buildings
Posted by Your Building Administrator 30 Aug 2007
This article provides an introduction to sustainability in commercial buildings and outlines the drivers, barriers, benefits and risks for implementing sustainable initiatives and practices into commercial buildings and the commercial property sector.
[Categories: article, sustainable_commercial_buildings](#)

Recent Additions
Space - 1 Bligh Street, Sydney, NSW
Posted by Your Building Administrator 27 Aug 2007
This article describes the transparent elliptical shape and double skin façade, 1 Bligh St - also known as Space - designed to achieve a six star Green Star rating.
[Categories: case_studies](#)

Water use and sustainable commercial buildings
Posted by Your Building Administrator 24 Aug 2007
This article presents issues related to water use in sustainable commercial buildings
[Categories: sustainable_resource_use, article](#)

Categories
Sustainable Commercial Buildings
Sustainability Strategies
Sustainable Resources
Indoor Environment
Processes and Tools
Case Studies
Owners
Occupiers
Developers
Builders
Designers
Facility Managers

Features
Six steps to sustainable commercial buildings
Posted by Your Building Administrator 28 Aug 2007
Six steps to sustainability is a 'how to' guide for owning, developing, designing, constructing, occupying and managing sustainable commercial buildings. For each industry group, it is a compilation of input and ideas from Australian industry leaders as to what, in their experience, are the most important issues and how they can be addressed.
[Categories: article, sustainability_strategies, feature](#)

Project Partners
A research, industry and government collaboration

Sponsors
Supporting Your Building

Project Partners
Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Water Resources
Australian Greenhouse Office
CRC Construction Innovation
BUILDING OUR FUTURE
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Article page

GLOSSARY
"What does that mean?"

PRINT Print the content

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THE SZENCORP BUILDING
40 Albert Rd, Sth Melbourne
RETROFITTING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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YOUR PROFILE
Set up your own page

Definition of sustainable commercial buildings

Added by Patrick Burke, last edited by Your Building Administrator on Aug 27, 2007 15:42
Labels: [article](#), [sustainable_commercial_buildings](#)

RATING
Rate the article quality

Article Rating: ★★★★★ 3 voters

LABELS
Tag your favourite topics

Categories
[Sustainable Commercial Buildings](#)
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RSS Set up an RSS feed to be advised when content is updated

Contents

- Summary
- What is a sustainable commercial building?
- Elements of a sustainable commercial building
 - The site
 - Building fabric and materials
 - Certification
 - Operation
 - Efficiency with energy and water
 - Social capacity and building users' comfort
- Sustainability rating tools

ARTICLES
Written and reviewed by leading researchers and industry participants

Authoring team for the foundation article: Danielle McCartney

Features
Six steps to sustainable commercial buildings
Posted by Your Building Administrator on 26 Aug 2007
Six steps to sustainability is a 'how to' guide for owning, developing, designing, constructing, occupying and managing sustainable commercial buildings. For each industry group, it is a compilation of input and ideas from Australian industry leaders as to what, in their experience, are the most important issues and how they can be addressed.
[Categories: article, sustainability_strategies, feature](#)
Add Comment

What is a sustainable commercial building?

Australia's first 6 Star Green Star refurbishment - 40 Albert Road, South Melbourne
Source: Szcencorp

COMMENTS
What do you think about the article?

discussion over what constitutes a "sustainable commercial building".

Commercial buildings are complex assemblies of products, materials, technologies, and systems, owned, designed, developed, built, and managed in different ways by different people for a whole range of users, and for a whole range of purposes. Consequently, it is not possible to say that any particular characteristics make a commercial building sustainable - the problem of making a building sustainable can be approached in many different ways. Nonetheless, this article of Your Building takes up the challenge!

A sustainable commercial building can be defined as a building with good planning, design, construction, operation and management practices that reduce the impact of development on the environment. A sustainable commercial building is also economically viable, and potentially enhances the social amenity of its occupants and the community.

A sustainable commercial building can be defined as a building with

Project partners



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources
Australian Greenhouse Office



About the CRC for *Construction Innovation*

The CRC for *Construction Innovation* was established in 2001 under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres Programme, with cash and in-kind support from a range of leading industry, government and research partners. It plays an important role in providing leadership and facilitating collaboration for the development of technologies and innovation in the property, design, construction and facility management industry.

As a founding member of ASBEC, *Construction Innovation* is committed to progressing construction-related sustainability across the country. *Construction Innovation's* sustainable built assets research program covers both the commercial and residential sectors, aiming to optimise the environmental and social impacts of buildings.

Sponsors

Your Building is sponsored by the following organisations with a commitment to sustainable commercial buildings.



For more information please visit www.yourbuilding.org
or contact the CRC for *Construction Innovation* on 07 3138 9291.

