



Fact Sheet

Eco-label Recognition within Green Star NZ

November 2009

Background

To date Environmental Choice NZ has been the primary third party verification scheme or eco-label recognised by Green Star NZ. The range of products and materials certified through Environmental Choice (ECNZ) has expanded rapidly over the last few years. However the architectural and specification professions cannot source sufficient certified product to meet their clients' Green Star needs.

For this reason we are now recognising other, internationally based, eco-labels within Green Star. This Fact Sheet outlines how the NZGBC intend to recognise other eco-labels.

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) released its Assessment Framework for Product Certification Schemes in June 2009. The Framework establishes a set of best practice criteria and benchmarks against which all product certification schemes seeking recognition within Green Star will be measured. The NZGBC's approach is aligned with this approach but reflects the differences in the New Zealand market. For more information on this Framework please see the GBCA's [website](#).

The NZGBC proposed approach was released for industry comment on 20th August 2009. The feedback period closed on 30th September. For a summary of the feedback received and our response to the feedback please download the summary document from the NZGBC [website](#).

How eco-labels will be recognised within Green Star NZ

There will now be the opportunity for any eco-label to seek recognition within Green Star NZ. As this represents a significant change to the Green Star NZ Materials Category there will be an interim period from 1 November 2009 – 31 July 2010. At the conclusion of this period, the NZGBC will review the interim approach and determine whether any modifications should be made to the approach. Further industry consultation will be undertaken at this stage if required.

The key aspects to eco-label recognition during the interim period are outlined below:

- **Environmental Choice New Zealand (ECNZ) will continue to achieve full recognition within Green Star NZ during the interim period.**
- **Any eco-label which is successfully assessed under the Green Building Council of Australia's new Assessment Framework for Product Certification Schemes will also achieve full recognition within Green Star NZ during the interim period.**

- **All eco-labels recognised at the time of product selection and specification writing will be recognised when the project comes to be certified as follows:**
 - **Design ratings:** Any eco-label which is recognised at the time the project is registered, will be recognised at the time of assessment.
 - **Built ratings (including Office Interiors):** Any eco-label which is recognised at the time the project is registered, will be recognised at the time of assessment. In addition, if points were achieved for a Design rating for the use of eco-labelled products/materials within the building (and these same products/materials were then installed) these eco-labels will also be recognised at Built rating stage.
- **This applies to all Credits which award points for products/materials with an eco-label.** Currently the GBCA's Framework doesn't address all relevant products/materials. However the NZGBC will work with the GBCA to expand the range of products/materials which can be assessed under the Framework, on an as-needs basis in response to demand from industry.