

# NEW ZEALAND green building council

Our vision: To transform the built environment to reduce the impact of development and use

This is the first of a series of newsletter updates that we'll issue six weekly. We welcome your involvement and look forward to an interactive and action-focused 2006.

## We're underway!

By Jane Henley, Establishment CEO

The idea of the New Zealand Green Building Council was born exactly a year ago and establishment work is well underway, thanks to a passionate Establishment Board of ten. ([Read more here](#))

We are now formally the New Zealand Green Building Council Incorporated. With a strong focus on collaboration and inclusion, we're seeking long term working relationships with industry organisations, and to build key industry partnerships. We are now accepting Foundation Membership from industry. If you are interested in discussing this, please [contact us here](#).

The next milestone is to decide, by the end of June 2006, which Office Building Rating System is best for New Zealand. ([Read about the project](#)) We will be opening for general membership in July 2006 at our official launch. Leading up to July, we will also be calling for expressions of interest for positions on the Board. The NZGBC is seeking to gain membership of the World Green Building Council once requirements of the WGBC are met. [Read about other emerging Green Building Councils](#)

### Key Areas of Focus

We held four industry workshops in 2005 to refine the focus of the NZGBC's efforts for 2006 and beyond.

These are:

1. **Rating Systems** - *To establish nationally accepted, internationally aligned sustainability rating systems for sustainable buildings in New Zealand.*

The initial focus will be on new, then existing, office/commercial buildings, while developing a framework to cover other buildings types and uses.

2. **Education** - *To create demand for education around sustainable building issues, and to facilitate the delivery of that education*
3. **Information** - *To provide, more generally, information and advocacy for the improved environmental performance of buildings. This includes information/data/metrics to persuade business, government, consumers and advisors to adopt green building principles*

### Regional Chapters

Are you interested in helping set up regional chapters in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch? Chapters are an important way of organising regional activity to meet the needs of different centres. To express your interest, please email: [jane@nzgbc.org.nz](mailto:jane@nzgbc.org.nz)

## Establishment CEO appointed

We are pleased to welcome Jane Henley as the NZGBC Establishment CEO. Jane's background in management, within both the commercial and non-profit sectors, places her in an ideal position to establish the key partnerships needed for the success of the NZGBC. Jane is well known as the founder of the Sustainable Building Cluster in Auckland, launched by Hon. Chris Carter in May 2005. By following international models of Green Building Councils and working closely with these partners, Jane is determined to lead an innovative, inclusive and progressive NZGBC. Central to this is a strong focus on current market needs for standards and education, as well as stimulating the sector in a way that will ultimately benefit all stakeholders, no matter where they are in the value chain.

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## Sustainable Building Assessment Scheme Project

NZGBC has received significant funding from the Ministry for the Environment to analyse and identify the most suitable office building assessment scheme for New Zealand. The NZGBC is seeking industry input through a series of workshops (see below) to distil what is most important in the introduction of assessment systems. By the end of June, we will present a plan to adapt and implement the selected scheme, including budgets and timelines for the New Zealand launch.

Ray Cole of the Canadian GBC has challenged New Zealand to accelerate its introduction of a scheme. During his recent visit, he said that having a scheme up and running was the most important need at this stage – it will evolve with use. Central to this evolution will be ensuring that the rating system is relevant to people from all parts of the value chain, allowing them to apply sustainable principles to the delivery of the end product – the building.

In April a series of workshops will be held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch to ensure that the direction New Zealand takes will meet market requirements and be in line with international systems. These facilitated sessions are designed to consider all the options and get vital industry feedback from stakeholders. We strongly encourage you to be part of the debate and influence the outcome by attending one of the workshops on the following dates:

- Auckland 4th April, 1pm – 4.30pm
- Wellington 5th April, 1pm - 4.30pm
- Christchurch 6th April, 1pm - 4.30pm

[Please register online today](#) to allow us to book venues based on numbers. More information will be provided closer to the date.

## Sustainability investment repaid up to six times in 20 years: study

By Graeme Finlay, Principal of Warren and Mahoney

Advocates of sustainable building now have indigenous evidence of the benefits of sustainable building in the Ministry for the Environment's *Value Case for Sustainable Building*.

The Value Case studied 20 New Zealand buildings. Five of these – an office building, a university, a library, a high school and a hospital – were studied in considerable depth to understand the relative cost/benefit of commercial or public green building in New Zealand.

While each building had different sustainability features, the study showed that the average 6% additional cost of including such features, compared with conventional buildings, would be repaid up to six times within 20 years.

The real value of such a finding is that it helps build an incontrovertible case for stakeholders - ranging from property developers to financiers - that green makes as much sense financially as it does environmentally. Importantly, too, the Value Case findings mirror international findings.

The New Zealand Green Building Council is currently working to develop a Green Building rating scheme which is locally relevant but of international quality and recognition. The scheme will help codify the relative ESD merit of a building and will become an essential tool for building owners and investors. A strong rating can now be seen to be as much an economic, as an environmental, endorsement of that building.

The *Value Case for Sustainable Building* was commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment and was co-authored by David Fulbrook of E Cubed Building Workshop and Graeme Finlay of Warren and Mahoney.

[Download a PDF copy](#) of the *Value Case for Sustainable Buildings* from the Ministry for the Environment website.

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## Dr Ray Cole encourages uniquely NZ solution

By Rebecca Hope, Tecads

At a recent public lecture, Dr Ray Cole, co-founder of the Green Building Challenge and internationally eminent building scientist, suggested that any new rating scheme “could easily draw on the structural and technical components already on hand from systems in other countries, but set with the unique implementation context of New Zealand.”

Dr Cole was instrumental in developing the Canadian rating scheme and is currently helping the NZGBC set up a scheme for New Zealand. “In New Zealand, the same emphasis should be given to designing the system of output and delivery as to the technical framework of the schemes themselves”, Dr Cole advised. To make our rating schemes successful, Dr Cole favours developing a suite of related tools designed to create positive change in the way that buildings are produced – not just a system that simply scores the environmental performance of a building.

Dr Cole sees the main challenge being changing the culture of New Zealand’s building industry. He strongly advocates the NZ Green Building Council in the leading role, providing a trusted source of rational, unbiased information. Accordingly, Council membership must be made up of the widest possible group of stakeholders including scientists, academics, industry, manufacturers, government and the media.

Note: In his visit to NZ with the Victoria University of Wellington School of Architecture (VUW), Ray Cole has offered to act in an advisory role to the NZGBC. We look forward to working closely with both VUW and Ray Cole.

### Events and International News:

- UK Green Building Council is being established: [read more](#)
- [Find information on](#) BRANZ research, tools and projects.

## Rugby World Cup 2011 – as green as it is all black?

By Jane Henley, Establishment CEO

The Rugby World Cup 2011 will be watched closely not just for its rugby. Sporting events worldwide are becoming showcases of the country’s ability to apply environmentally-sound practice. With a ‘clean green’ image to uphold, it is something that those who are planning our big event in 2011 need to consider right now.

The International Olympic Committee considers the environment to be the third dimension of Olympism, alongside sport and culture. The ‘greening’ of the Games has become a sport of its own, in the sense that each event has attempted to outdo the one before in its level of environmental performance. The Sydney 2000 Games were used as an innovative platform to showcase developments in green technologies and processes. Beijing 2008 Olympics has three mottos for the Games: Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People’s Olympics. London 2012 has developed the concept of a ‘One Planet Olympics’ with technical challenges such as zero carbon and zero waste and an innovative use of partnerships to ensure the community benefits.

Other major sporting events are experiencing a similar shift toward sustainability. The 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany is to be the world’s first climate-neutral major sporting event as well as setting tight and measurable targets to reduce the burden on the environment especially in water, waste, energy and transport. At the recent 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, the HECTOR project was also designed to make the event carbon neutral in line with the Kyoto Protocol.

There’s much in here that we need to consider in New Zealand right now.

- Dr. Duffell, University of Hertfordshire, speaks on Sustainable Engineering and Development: [read more](#)
- IPENZ Convention “Vision 20/20” 22–23 March 2006 Duxton Hotel, Wellington: [read more](#)