

Green Star NZ Design and As-Built - Eligibility Criteria

All buildings aiming to achieve a Green Star NZ - Design & As-Built rating are subject to the following eligibility criteria:

Building Type

Green Star NZ - Design & As Built is intended to rate new buildings and major refurbishments. The majority of building types are eligible to be rated including mixed use developments. Note: New Zealand based developments that have a residential component should consult with the NZGBC. Homestar is the preferred rating tool available for use by new build residential developments with primarily sole occupant dwellings (whether standalone, terrace housing or apartments). If clarification is needed on how a specific type of building can fit within this rating tool, please submit a Technical Question or contact NZGBC.

Spatial Differentiation

To meet the Spatial Differentiation criterion, the project must be clearly distinct. Only distinct projects are eligible for assessment; project components are not eligible. Shared building services (such as HVAC plant or water treatment) or amenities (such as waste rooms or bicycle facilities) do not affect the building's eligibility for Green Star assessment. Sub-tenancies are considered part of the fitout and cannot be excluded from the rating.

Timing of Submission for Certification

All projects registered for Green Star NZ - Design & As Built must achieve an As Built certified rating. Registered projects have the option of achieving a Design Review certified rating as an interim step towards As Built certification.

Design Review Certified Rating

Submissions for a Design Review certified rating can be lodged as soon as the required evidence is available, but prior to practical completion. The Design Review is intended as an opportunity for assessment at an early stage, to lend confidence where desired by project teams.

As Built Certified Rating

Submissions for an As Built certified rating can be lodged after practical completion.

Time Requirements:

Certain timeframes and thresholds must be adhered to in order for a project to achieve a certified rating. The following milestones are mandatory for all registered projects, and if any are not met a project's certified rating will either expire or will be cancelled according to Green Star Certification Agreement.

- As Built certified rating must be achieved within 24 months of practical completion.
- Either a Design Review certified rating or an As Built certified rating must be achieved by the date occurring 3 years from the registration date.

- Either a Design Review certified rating or an As Built certified rating must be achieved within 12 months following the receipt of Round1 comments from the NZGBC.
- As Built certified rating does not expire.
- Design Review certified rating must be achieved prior to practical completion.
- Design Review certified rating will expire when either of the following occurs:
 - a) The project achieves an As Built certified rating; or
 - b) The project reaches 24 months post practical completion.
- A Design Review certified rating will be cancelled at any time if there is no intent to achieve an As Built certified rating.

Conditional Requirements

“Conditional requirements” determine projects’ eligibility for targeting a Green Star rating. Projects must ensure they can fulfil all the conditional requirements before registering to Green Star. When a project team fills out the Green Star registration document, they must agree that the project will meet the conditional requirements.

To achieve a certified rating under the Green Star - Design and As Built NZv1.1 rating tool, the project must meet “Conditional Requirements’ set in the following credits.

- [Credit 2 Commissioning and Tuning](#)
- [Credit 3 Adaptation and Resilience](#)
- [Credit 15 Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)
- [Credit 19 Embodied Carbon Emissions](#)
- [Credit 24 Sustainable Sites](#)

NZGBC may request that full documentation be submitted prior to registration to determine project eligibility (recommended supporting evidence are listed in the corresponding credits).

The New Zealand Green Building Council reserves the right to provide the final ruling on a project’s compliance with this Conditional Requirements. Projects are required to contact the NZGBC if they are unsure if they comply or believe they should not be made subject to the Conditional Requirements.

Other Requirements

Further requirements are set out in the certification agreement. It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with all legal requirements in respect of their project.

Appendix: Conditional Requirements

Commissioning and Tuning

2.1 Conditional Requirement:

2 points are available where the building has set environmental performance targets, been commissioned, and will be tuned.

The requirements of this credit are project-specific and based on the complexity of the designed and installed building systems.

The project team shall have commissioning process activities completed for all nominated building systems that serve the project. See the Guidance section for the definition of nominated building systems.

The project must comply with all of the following criteria in order to achieve a Green Star rating:

- Environmental Performance targets; and
- Commissioning and Tuning

2 points can be awarded when the above criteria are met.

Adaptation and Resilience

3.1 Conditional Requirement:

To qualify for points of this credit, it is a conditional requirement that the project team completes the climate change pre-screening checklist (refer 3.1). The project team must communicate the building's exposure to climate change hazards, and any identified risks to the client/building owner.

To achieve a certified rating under the Green Star - Design and As Built rating tool the project must complete the climate change pre-screening checklist. The risk assessment should be completed by developed design at the latest.

Both historic and future climate and hazard data (refer section 'Sourcing Climate Change Projections') should be used when completing the checklist. All rows and columns must be completed. The conditional requirement is achieved on completion of the checklist and doesn't require identified risks to be treated.

The checklist must be signed off by a member of the project team and shared with key project stakeholders, including the client/building owner.

If credit 3.2 is targeted, the requirement to complete the climate change pre-screening checklist (credit 3.1) is considered to have been met.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

15.1 Conditional Requirement

A Conditional Requirement must be met in order for the project to be eligible for Green Star - Design & As Built rating. Additional requirements must be met to receive a 5 star or 6-star rating.

All projects are required to comply with the Conditional Requirement outlined in this credit.

Project teams must demonstrate that the operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Proposed Building are at least 20% less than those of a Reference Building.

The Reference Building is a building which achieves the 'Deemed-to-satisfy' criteria outlined in the Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculation Guide.

Additional GHG emissions reductions must be achieved to receive a 5 star or 6 star rating.

Project teams must also demonstrate that they have limited direct fossil fuel sources. The Proposed Building shall have no greater than 20% of its annual GHG emissions from direct fossil fuel use on site.

Additional fossil fuel limits must be achieved to receive a 5 Star or 6 Star rating.

Table 15.1: Conditional Requirements and Fossil Fuel Limits

Rating Targeted	Minimum GHG Emissions Reduction Threshold (Proposed to Reference)	Direct Fossil Fuel Use GHG Emissions Limit (Proposed Building)*
4 Star	20%	20%
5 Star	30%	10%
6 Star	50%	0%

*For 6 Star this includes any building process requirements such as cooking, manufacturing processes, etc. The next version of the Green Star will also prohibit direct fossil fuel use in 5 Star buildings.

Where fossil fuels are used solely for the purposes of emergency generation then any testing fuel consumption may be excluded from the assessment as viable alternatives are not available for many building types, and the quantity of associated emissions relatively low.

Embodied Carbon Emissions

19.1 Conditional Requirement

- 4 Star A minimum reduction in upfront carbon emissions of 10% is required to achieve 4 Star Green Star rating.
- 5 Star A minimum reduction in upfront carbon emissions of 10% is required to achieve 5 Star Green Star rating.
- 6 Star A minimum reduction in upfront carbon emissions of 15% is required to achieve 5 Star Green Star rating.

There are a total of 11 points available in Credit 19 with 19.1 requiring a mandatory minimum achievement. There are two pathways for credit 19.1 Upfront Carbon Reduction Assessment, which include the reduction of such emissions in comparison to a reference building or in comparison to a pre-determined absolute value.

Sustainable Sites

24.1 Conditional Requirement:

Ecological Protection and Highly Productive land.

To achieve a certified rating the project must not be located on a site of high ecological value and must not convert or otherwise prevent the use of highly productive land for agricultural purposes.

At project registration the project team must provide evidence to confirm that:

- The type of development that is proposed in the project area meets the intent of the underlying planning zone;
- The site protects ecologically significant areas (as defined below) within it and, preferably avoids, but, has at most less than minor adverse effects on ecologically significant areas either within the site or near to the site and upon which the development could have impacts (e.g. wetlands downstream);
- The project does not transform, convert, or change to another land-use any Highly Productive Land (as defined below) or otherwise prevent its continued use of for primary production purposes

To achieve a certified rating under the *Green Star - Design & As Built* rating tool the project must protect and have less than minor effects on any ecologically significant area present within the site at the date of site purchase or option contract, Ecologically significant areas are defined as:

- Natural wetlands, Lakes, and Rivers

Either a default 100m 'setback' should be included between these features and construction activity (whether they are on the applicant's property or on an adjacent property), or a plan provided that an ecological professional approves as sufficient to prevent (avoid or minimise) adverse effects upon the feature(s) within 100m or with sufficient hydrological connection to be potentially affected.

- Land containing significant indigenous vegetation, naturally uncommon ecosystems, or significant habitats for indigenous flora & fauna - especially for any nationally threatened species or organisms⁸.
- Any legally protected area defined under the Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977, QEII National Trust Act 1977, or RMA Section 108 (1), (c) and (d).
- Where mapped, any Significant Natural or Significant Ecological Areas as designated by Councils.

If the site is part of a greenfield development, NZGBC recommend use of local authority GIS mapping to assist determining compliance. Please contact NZGBC for further guidance.

Where any of the above listed conditions is present on a project site, the project team should notify and discuss with NZGBC to determine whether this affects the project's eligibility. If the development does not require a Resource Consent for activities in relation to potential impacts to significant ecological/natural areas (e.g., vegetation removal, reclamation or matters under the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater), then it is deemed eligible under this Conditional Requirement subject to further assessment.

24.1.1 Conditional Requirement: Ecological Value

The evidence confirming that the site prior to development meets the requirements may be in the form of:

- Correspondence from the relevant local Council OR a qualified Ecologist confirming that the site prior to development meets the criteria; OR
- Local planning maps with relevant overlays applied; OR
- A letter from the local Territorial Authority; OR
- A qualified Environmental Specialist's report; OR
- An Assessment of Environmental Effects for Resource Consent approved by Local Council, and clearly demonstrating that the site is not ecologically significant; OR
- If any ecologically significant sites are potentially affected, the project must provide evidence which sets out how any impacts will be mitigated through avoidance or minimisation, at least to a degree that adverse ecological effects are less than minor (prior to any restoration, offsetting or compensation measures) having regard to Section 6c of the Resource Management Act and the provisions of the relevant territorial authority Plan. If any less than minor effects are predicted then restoration, offsetting or compensation measures resulting in a net gain must be demonstrated for the biodiversity values for which the area is designated as ecologically significant. If no adverse effects are predicted then no mitigation is required.

Regardless of the evidence type supplied, if it is clear that either no sites of ecological significance are present or that adverse effects can be avoided altogether then the project will be deemed eligible. If further justification of ecologically significant status or potential effects mitigation is required, expert evidence may be requested during the assessment phase to demonstrate the requirement can be met.

24.1.2 Conditional Requirement: Highly Productive Land

Evidence of the LUC class can be provided by referring to the NZ Land Resource Inventory which maps the LUC distributions across New Zealand at a scale of 1:50,000

<https://iris.scinfo.org.nz/layer/48076-nzlri-land-use-capability-2021/>

Note that Highly Productive Land (HPL) is defined as land which is classed as either Land Use Capability (LUC) class 1, 2, or 3. This covers land of the highest capability and versatility to support primary production. HPL excludes all urban zoned areas and all future urban zoned areas in District Plans.