



Future Directions April 07 Speaker Night

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Green Star Ratings Past, Present & Future

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Mark Tickle

Environmental Engineer, Lincolne Scott

Record attendance and strong enthusiasm further supported what we thought we already knew: **Green is the new Black**, and no doubt the hottest topic in the property and construction industry.

With a strong background in Green projects from his considerable experience in the UK, Mark Tickle returned to Australia with the goal to grow a dedicated Green group. Perfect timing! Mark now leads the Lincolne Scott Environmental Engineering team, focusing on the provision of ESD advice and the delivery of projects incorporating significant Green initiatives.

The focus of Mark's presentation was 'Green Star Rating Tools', including a background to the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), the purpose of the rating system and its method of implementation, and of course the punch line, the benefits of going Green.

In summary the GBCA was created in a reactive sense to tackle climate change challenges faced by the building and construction industry, and in a positive sense, to promote sustainable development. Learning from and improving on existing international rating systems implemented in both the UK and USA, the GBCA was developed by industry for industry.

Key initiatives of the new system include the creation of a common language for the industry, and the implementation of a common measure for the rating of Green buildings. These initiatives alone have greatly assisted to demystify the topic of Green and how it impacts the industry from a range of stakeholder view points.

The system utilizes rating tools developed specifically for specialist industry sectors. The Office Design tool implemented in 2003 is perhaps the best understood and proven, with numerous examples of its implementation nationally. Moving on, the GBCA has a focus on a range of new tools, including Healthcare, Shopping Centre, and Education to name a few. The full implementation of these new rating tools will know doubt cement the GBCA as a world leader in Green building initiatives.

The benefits of going Green will provide spirited debate well into the future; however the writing is somewhat on the wall, particularly for commercial buildings. Be it increased yields, reduced running costs, or improvements to the working environment, Green initiatives are making considerable inroads into the industry with both developers and tenants.

As we look into the future, the building industry is just one very small part of a much larger and complex environment. However through initiative and strong leadership our industry can set itself apart from others, and set benchmarks for the future by lowering its impact on the environment and at the same time create a better environment to work and live in.



Chris Hemphill
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