

INN-3 COVID-19 Innovations

POINTS
AVAILABLE

1

AIM OF CREDIT

To encourage and recognize sustainable building initiatives, processes or strategies that are currently outside of the scope of the Green Star SA rating tool but which have a substantial or significant environmental benefit during the COVID-19 pandemic to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

CREDIT CRITERIA

. One point is awarded where:

- Initiatives, processes or strategies in sustainable building management and operations, outside of the current scope of the Green Star SA tool, are put into place during the COVID-19 pandemic to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Green Star – All Tools

Submit all the evidence and ensure it readily confirms compliance.

- Short Report
- Relevant Supporting Documentation

Short Report: prepared by a suitably qualified individual which describes how the Credit Criteria have been met by:

- Including a detailed description of the COVID-19 related initiative, process or strategy.
- Justifying why this innovation is relevant for this building phase and type.
- Justifying how this innovation would be different to other existing Green Star SA credits in the rating tool.
- Justifying how this innovation would exceed the South African Government Regulations and Guidelines related to COVID-19
- Articulating the magnitude and quantifying the benefit achieved by putting this initiative into place during the COVID-19 pandemic to minimize spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Relevant Supporting Documentation: Referencing research, evidence and calculations (where relevant) that support all claims within the Short Report.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- The COVID-19 Innovation point(s) are reviewed and awarded entirely at the discretion of the GBCSA, and any decision is final.
- A COVID-19 Innovation submission must be a concise report that clearly justifies how this innovation minimizes the spread of COVID-19.
- Submissions that are unsupported by documented research, evidence and calculations (where relevant) related to the specific initiative will not be awarded Innovation points, regardless of how innovative the initiative is.
- The metric used to demonstrate environmental benefit must, where possible, be the same as the metrics used in Green Star SA for similar attributes.

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- Information provided within the Innovation Credit applications may be used by the GBCSA to review the existing credits and/or develop new credits.
- The GBCSA will consider rewarding and recognizing projects which implement both temporary and permanent initiatives which minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic. However the project team will need to justify the magnitude of the initiative.
- Project teams can submit more than one COVID-19 Innovation initiative per project, however each initiative must address a separate concern per point pursued.

BACKGROUND

The GBCSA encourages projects to go beyond what Green Star SA requires and to think 'out the box' in terms of sustainable design, construction and operation in the built environment, and the GBCSA will reward and recognize projects that do so, and are able to document the initiative appropriately.

In responding to COVID-19 within the built environment there is an opportunity to develop safer and healthier buildings and spaces for their occupants. Globally there is an effort to help further define the leading role buildings, organizations and communities can play in reducing the health burden from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

The Green Star SA tool encourages healthy, good indoor environmental quality and there are numerous credits within the rating tool which address Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ), targeting the wellbeing of the occupants. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GBCSA aims to reward and recognize projects which implement innovative initiatives, processes or strategies in sustainable building management and operations which are outside of the current scope of this Green Star SA tool and are put into place during the COVID-19 pandemic to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Through the inclusion of appropriate adaptation measures there is an opportunity to address initiatives such as nontoxic surface cleaning and disinfecting, workplace re-occupancy, risk management, social distancing, air quality and infection monitoring.

The COVID-19 Innovation initiatives based on new research and evidence-backed strategies will be reviewed by the GBCSA to potentially further adapt existing credits and/or develop new credits. Post the COVID-19 pandemic, the GBCSA will continue to reward and recognize projects which address health related initiatives which go beyond what Green Star SA requires.

REFERENCES & FURTHER INFORMATION

Refer to the South African Government Regulations and Guidelines - Covid-19 website:

<https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>

Refer to LEED COVID-19 Resources:

<https://www.usgbc.org/about/covid-19-resources>

Refer to WELL COVID-19 Resources:

<https://resources.wellcertified.com/tools/strategies-from-the-well-building-standard-to-support-in-the-fight-against-covid-19/>