

Hi All

After a fantastic 2008, we at the Green Building Council wish all our valued sponsors, members and associates well for a greener 2009!

There is no doubt this year will be a huge challenge - dire global economic forecasts, fear and uncertainty abound - yet the current climate underlines the need to do more with less and to be more efficient with the scarce resources at our disposal, and highlight the value of focusing on the sustainability of investments. Green building is the only intelligent way forward for our industry.

The GBCSA is geared up for another big year:

- the first **Green Star SA rating tool for office buildings** is live and we have already received project registrations – which will be the first project to achieve Green Star SA certification?
- plans are in motion for the **development of additional tools** and we are currently calling for **tool sponsorship** – see further info below,
- **Green Star SA Accredited Professional courses** are being rolled out in the major centers countrywide – see further details below,
- We look forward to the **2009 GBCSA Convention & Exhibition**, which is scheduled for **21-23 October** at the CTICC in Cape Town – the inaugural 2008 convention will be a tough act to follow but we are already compiling a fantastic program.

Mahatma Gandhi's words remind us all to "be the change you want to see in the world". This is an incredible powerful attitude for each individual but even more so if we embrace it as an industry - the property and construction industry can lead the fight against climate change and other environmental threats to our survival.

We look forward to your continued support and involvement this year as we look to grow into an effective industry voice and driver of change.

Kind regards,



Bruce Kerswill
Executive Chairman



Nicola Douglas
CEO

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- [2009 GBCSA CONVENTION & EXHIBITION - SAVE THE DATE!](#)
- [GBCSA CONVENTION & EXHIBITION SETS A HIGH STANDARD](#)
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Green power is used to describe electricity generated off-site from renewable sources. This electricity is either sold by energy suppliers through the electricity grid or through tradeable renewable energy certificates, or TREC's (available in South Africa). Arrangements to purchase green power are considered operational issues and are not recognized in the Green Star SA - Office rating tool, which evaluates building design attributes. However, all renewable energy generated on the actual building site is recognized in the rating tool.

RELATED ARTICLES

[The Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism, and the Building and Construction Sector](#)

Report by UNEP SBCI (The United Nations Environment Programme - Sustainable Buildings & Construction Initiative).

[Reducing Energy Costs: Easy Wins](#)

Report on business recognising the value of energy efficiency by Savills Research and the WSP Group.

[Doing Well by Doing Good? Green Office Buildings](#)

Report on the economic value of green building certification