

September 2010

NEWS

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The roof of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Green roofs are one example of 'restorative sustainability' cited by David Baggs in his paper 'Beyond Carbon Neutrality', published in EDG this month

(Image: Orana Sandri, 2009)

From the Editor

The green building industry, and the nation, was relieved of a good deal of uncertainty earlier this month when Federal Labor received the support of two rural independents and was able to form government. The news was welcomed by many in the industry, as we discuss in our review of the government's [policy agenda](#).

It has been a good month to reflect on the achievements of the green building industry. Internationally, the inaugural World Green Building Week (www.worldgbc.org) kicked off on September 20. Nationally, RMIT's annual Green Building and Design Conference, which ran in Melbourne on September 3 and 4, was a showcase for Australian designers, developers and academics who are striving to green the nation's building stock. Some terrific learnings and analysis came out of the conference, and we will be bringing some of those to you in issues to come. AIRAH's Achieving the Green Dream conference, on 16 and 17 September, was also a great success. If there was one thing that united both conferences, it was that every speaker seemed to be calling for a more integrated, cross-disciplinary approach to building design and commissioning.

New to EDG this month are three papers, 'An Introduction to Socially Responsible Planning and Urban Design' by Jenny Donovan, 'Beyond Carbon Neutrality: Strategies for Reductive and Restorative Sustainability' by David Baggs, and 'James Street Market, Brisbane – A Subtropical Retail Case Study' by Rosemary Kennedy and Charmaine Kai.

In the coming months, we will be publishing papers on NatHERS (which has been the subject of a rather overcooked public controversy – see the [commentary](#) by ABSA Chairman Wayne Floyd); the BCA's Section J; housing density; and climate change adaptation strategies for building designers. These will all be welcome additions to the EDG library.

Michael Day

New Parliament Promises Much for Green Building Sector

After securing the backing of two rural independents, the Gillard Labor Government finally claimed victory in this year's Federal election.

With the Greens holding a crucial lower house seat and the balance of power in the Senate from July next year, the next Parliament looks like being a good one for pro-environment building sector policy.

Labor has said it will continue to develop a National Buildings Framework, which will set increasingly strong minimum performance standards over time for new buildings and major renovations. The Commercial Office Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure (CBD) Scheme, which comes into effect on 1 November 2010, is a crucial part of the plan.

Going a step further, Federal Labor says it is also committed to working with the States and Territories to deliver mandatory disclosure of residential building energy efficiency at the time of sale or lease.

It is an ambitious policy and implementation will be challenging. A small army of sustainability assessors similar to the one mustered for the Green Loans scheme probably would be required, and close coordination with the States will be key.

In the commercial building space, the pathways to success are more certain.

The government is committed to rolling out its Tax Breaks for Green Buildings policy. From 1 July 2011, businesses that invest in eligible assets or capital works to improve the energy efficiency of their existing buildings – from 2 stars or lower to 4 stars or higher – will be able to apply for a one-off bonus tax deduction. The incentive will enable businesses to claim a bonus tax deduction of 50 per cent of the cost of the eligible assets or capital works.

The Green Building Fund, which supports retrofits to make existing commercial buildings more energy-efficient, is also set to continue, aided by a \$30 million boost announced during the campaign.

Not surprisingly, the Greens' building sector policies would go further than Labor's. Normally these would constitute little more than a wish list but in the current Parliament anything is possible. The policies include an Energy Efficiency Target Scheme, which would, like the Renewable Energy Target scheme currently in operation, require the surrender of certificates – in this case representing verifiable energy savings. These certificates would be able to be created in either the residential, commercial or industrial sectors.

The Greens have also introduced legislation for an Efficient Buildings Scheme, which is designed to drive energy efficiency upgrades in commercial buildings. The plan rests on mandatory disclosure of energy performance, not just at the time of sale or lease – but on an ongoing basis. It would constitute a significant upgrading of the CBD scheme and would almost certainly meet with stiff resistance from some industry lobbies.

Labor will be under significant pressure to provide more leadership in the climate change debate. Under a pact with the Greens, the government has promised to establish a new cross-party Climate Change Committee to spearhead carbon pricing legislation. The terms of reference mean that the committee is likely to recommend either an emissions trading scheme or a carbon tax/levy. Opposition leader Tony Abbott has already signalled that the Coalition MPs would not sit on the committee, referring to it as the 'carbon tax committee'. The stakes are high in every sense. With the two independents showing an open mind, but at this stage nothing more, the politics are certain to be intense.

New to EDG

This month, EDG publishes three new papers on sustainable design for the built environment.

An Introduction to Socially Responsible Planning and Urban Design, by Jenny Donovan

The way we form our urban areas, the spaces they create and the values they embody, have a profound effect on the quality of people's lives. Urban designer Jenny Donovan draws on the work of Abraham Maslow to present a model for socially responsible planning and urban design. The framework can assist existing planning strategies used to mitigate various forms of social disadvantage.

[Go to paper](#)

Beyond Carbon Neutrality: Strategies for Reductive and Restorative Sustainability, by David Baggs

David Baggs looks at the role of the built environment in our un-sustainability and explores the full spectrum of strategies and solutions as to how our buildings might become a pathway towards

a low-carbon future. Baggs explores the concepts of 'reductive' and 'restorative' sustainability, and discusses how they can each play their part in lessening our environmental impact.

[Go to paper](#)

James Street Market, Brisbane – A Subtropical Retail Case Study, by Rosemary Kennedy and Charmaine Kai

In the Australian subtropics, high rainfall, warm weather and humidity present unique challenges and opportunities for the architects tasked with designing eco-sensitive projects. The James Street Market utilises climate-responsive design to increase energy efficiency and reduce associated environmental impacts. Completed in 2002, it stands out as a leading example of climate-responsive retail design.

[Go to paper](#)

National News



Wind turbines atop the Hobart Marine Board Building
(Image: Xsquared Architects Pty Ltd, 2010)

Hobart Rooftop Wind Turbines Fail – Spectacularly

Two of the four wind turbines recently installed on the Hobart Marine Board Building became the subject of a major controversy on August 10, when witnesses saw their blades come loose and apparently spin out of control. The area around the building was closed to pedestrians and traffic while the wind turbines were assessed. An internal investigation subsequently found a safety feature activated after roof maintenance failed to reset the braking system.

In a letter to the *Hobart Mercury*, I Want Energy director Rob Manson said human error was to blame, adding that 'the turbines reacted exactly as they should, folding in on themselves'. Nevertheless the incident has placed rooftop turbine companies in damage control, faced with a loss of public confidence in the safety of their installations.

SA Moves on 6-Star Energy Ratings

Six-star energy efficiency requirements for new homes and home extensions came into force in South Australia on September 1, making it one of the first jurisdictions to move on the COAG resolution to raise residential energy efficiency standards. The new 6-star rated dwellings will require almost a quarter less energy to heat and cool than their 5-star rated equivalents.



Museum of Contemporary Art will be cooled by Sydney Harbour (Image: MCA, 2010)

Harbour Views Were Never So Cool

The new Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) will employ a state-of-the-art seawater heat exchange system, using water from Sydney Harbour, that will save it 30 per cent on energy.

Work has started on the \$53 million redevelopment of the MCA, which will increase the size of the museum by nearly 50 per cent and bring together the existing building with a modern extension. The design is by architect Sam Marshall in partnership with the NSW Government Architect.

GreenTag Given Green Light

Green building product database ecospecifier has announced that it's all systems go for its new building product certification system, GreenTag. In announcing the news, ecospecifier founder David Baggs said the GreenTag Green Star system 'will make it easy for architects, interior designers, procurement and specification professionals to specify green products with confidence in full knowledge that they are acceptable within the [GBCA's] Green Star system.'

GreenTag comprises two separate processes to certify different aspects of a product. The first is a life cycle assessment (LCA), building information modelling and simulation process, which rates a product against a business-as-usual comparison. This process evaluates product performance on key indicators such as greenhouse emissions, health and ecotoxicity, building synergy, biodiversity, and corporate social responsibility.

The second, GBCA third-party accredited process determines the product's relevant credit point level rating for Green Star materials calculators. GreenRate certification will display the level of credit points a product will be guaranteed when submitted with a Green Star 'Design' or 'As Built' Application for Interior Tools.

In Australia, Mr Baggs says, the expectation is that GreenTag will become the benchmark for green products vying for selection in buildings being assessed under Green Star. He is also hopeful that GreenTag will be adopted in overseas markets, including the Middle East, South East Asia, India, China and the USA.

Queensland Website a Boon for Green Building

Queensland's State Government has launched a website that demonstrates how large scale buildings can switch to clean energy by installing on-site low-emission energy systems. The site includes several detailed case studies of buildings that have successfully made the switch.

www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/low_emission_generation.cfm

A Brisbane First for Eco Development

A new green property group, ECOpro Developments, is providing a template for sustainable property development in Brisbane with its ECO on Taylor concept. Designed by Gold Coast architects Hamilton Hayes Henderson, the innovative new development will feature PV and solar hot water, low-e materials and finishes, a cross-flow ventilation system and a rooftop vegetable garden. 'We developed the idea for the garden so that residents will be able to meet while embracing a healthier and more natural lifestyle,' said ECOpro director Andrea Jakobs.

Besides its environmental focus, ECOpro Developments is notable for having been established by three women. ECO on Taylor is their first development, and is due for completion in 2011.

www.ecoprodevelopments.com.au



Concerns About NatHERS Over-rated

By Wayne Floyd, Chairman, Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA)

Several newspaper articles during the Federal election campaign claimed that the simulation software supporting the National Home Energy Ratings Scheme (NatHERS), used to determine the star rating of new homes, is flawed.

As the body representing building industry professionals who specialise in assessing the environmental impact of buildings, ABSA has a vital interest in the performance of this tool. While there is certainly room for improvement in the governance of this scheme, ABSA strongly believes these are good tools and claims about flaws in the software are greatly exaggerated.

We believe the articles were based on a series of reports, one of which was published last year on the internet. It showed differences of between 1 and 2 stars in the ratings of the same house when rated using AccuRate and BERSPro. The articles claimed a difference of up to 3 stars.

ABSA engaged expert assessors in each tool and audited these ratings to make sure that interpretation of the plan and adherence to rating protocols was identical between the three assessors.

We found that the differences between the BERSPro and AccuRate were much less than claimed. In general, differences were under half a star and this may be due to the differences in reporting star ratings: BERSPro reports only half stars and AccuRate reports decimal stars.

Since that initial report, there have been two more reports, neither of which has been peer reviewed. When this is the case, we expect to find errors – as we did with the web-based report.

However, some issues do need to be addressed and ABSA has made its views known to both Federal and State Governments.

There is no doubt these are complex tools to use. When the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the use of the software nationally, it also agreed to make sure all assessors were appropriately trained and quality assured.

This has not been done. Not all States have quality assurance, and training requirements differ. Only about half of the 2000 trained assessors in Australia are registered with an accrediting organisation. We believe that quality can only be assured if accreditation of assessors is mandatory across Australia.

In addition, ABSA has called on the Federal Government to commit to development work on the NatHERS benchmark tool, including improvements in data entry and calculation methods to increase speed, expansion of up-to-date product libraries to capture new materials, and specification of standard output to enable global auditing of assessments.

To ensure robust research and discussion, ABSA would also like to see the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency establish a national technical committee to look at a number of issues, including climate zones and star bands, accuracy and repeatability, research and development, a national assessment data registry and software differences and compliance.

All these measures will ensure that energy efficiency tools are continually improved, updated, and will stand up to industry and public scrutiny.

International News



Facade-integrated wind turbines in Chicago, USA
(Image: HOK and Steve Hall)

Innovative Use of Vertical Axis Wind Turbines in Chicago Car Park

A newly completed parking garage in Chicago showcases an innovative way of integrating vertical-axis wind turbines into a building's design, as an alternative to roof-mounted units. Designed by international architecture and engineering firm HOK, the wind energy system stacks 12 turbines from street level to the top floor, incorporating them into the corner of the street-facing facade.

German Village Demonstrates Net Positive Energy Design

Just months after the CSIRO-designed zero emissions house (AusZEH) opened in an estate in suburban Melbourne, a new German development has demonstrated the feasibility of net positive buildings. By combining passive design with vast arrays of photovoltaic cells, the Sonnenschiff solar city in Freiburg is able to produce four times more energy than it consumes.

This is no small feat considering that the development comprises of 52 homes and 4800 square metres of commercial office and retail space.

Awards and Competitions

Tropo Wins Global Award for Sustainable Architecture

Geoff Clark, senior lecturer at the UTAS School of Architecture and Design, travelled to Paris with the team from Tropo Architects to receive the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture.

The award was based on a body of work as assessed by a scientific committee made up of architects and academics. There are only five recipients of the award each year.

www.global-award.org
www.tropoarchitects.com.au

Architecture Student Wins Essay Prize for Food-Sensitive Development Idea

Gillian Hatch, a third-year RMIT Architecture student, has taken out the SAC Sustainability Competition with her innovative proposal to harvest tilapia – a fast-growing freshwater fish – in disused suburban swimming pools. Her prize is an all expenses paid trip to Bhopal, India, to assist Global Studio in its urban regeneration project there.

www.sona.com.au/main.isp?page=334&option=child&bread=child
<http://theglobalstudio.com/>



Spotted tilapia caught the heated outflow of a coal powerplant in southern Australia.

(Image: Andrew Miller, Wikimedia Commons)

Publications & Reports

ASBEC Second Plank Update Report

The Climate Change Task Group of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) has released its Second Plank Update Report 2010. The report provides an economic analysis of the potential role the Australian building sector can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through additional energy efficiency measures.

The key findings in the report are that under a CPRS, additional energy efficiency measures would achieve a further reduction of 33.2 megatonnes of emissions. In the absence of a CPRS, additional energy efficiency measures would realise a reduction of 46.7 megatonnes of emissions. (This is a larger figure because the CPRS would achieve some of the energy efficiency potential abatement.)



The report highlights the impediments and market failures that prevent the building sector from reaching its full greenhouse gas abatement potential, including the funding gap problem – that is, the long period between initial investment in energy efficiency measures and the realisation of benefits in terms of energy savings and other gains. This further supports the Task Group's call for Accelerated Green Depreciation as a key initiative to overcome barriers to the building sector achieving its full abatement potential.

On releasing the report, David Parken, Chair of the Climate Change Task Group and CEO of the Australian Institute of Architects, said: 'The delay of the CPRS should now bring energy efficiency measures to the top of the climate change agenda in what clearly is a real issue for all Australians'.

The building sector is comprised of residential and commercial buildings, and through its operational energy, accounts for around 19 per cent of total energy consumption in Australia, and around 24 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions.

www.asbec.asn.au

Australian Solar Radiation Data Handbook, Edition 4

By the Australian Solar Energy Society (AuSES)

Review by Peter Overton, Solar Architect for TT Architecture, Canberra

The *Australian Solar Radiation Data Handbook* (ASRDH4) is a major source of information about Australia's most abundant energy resource.

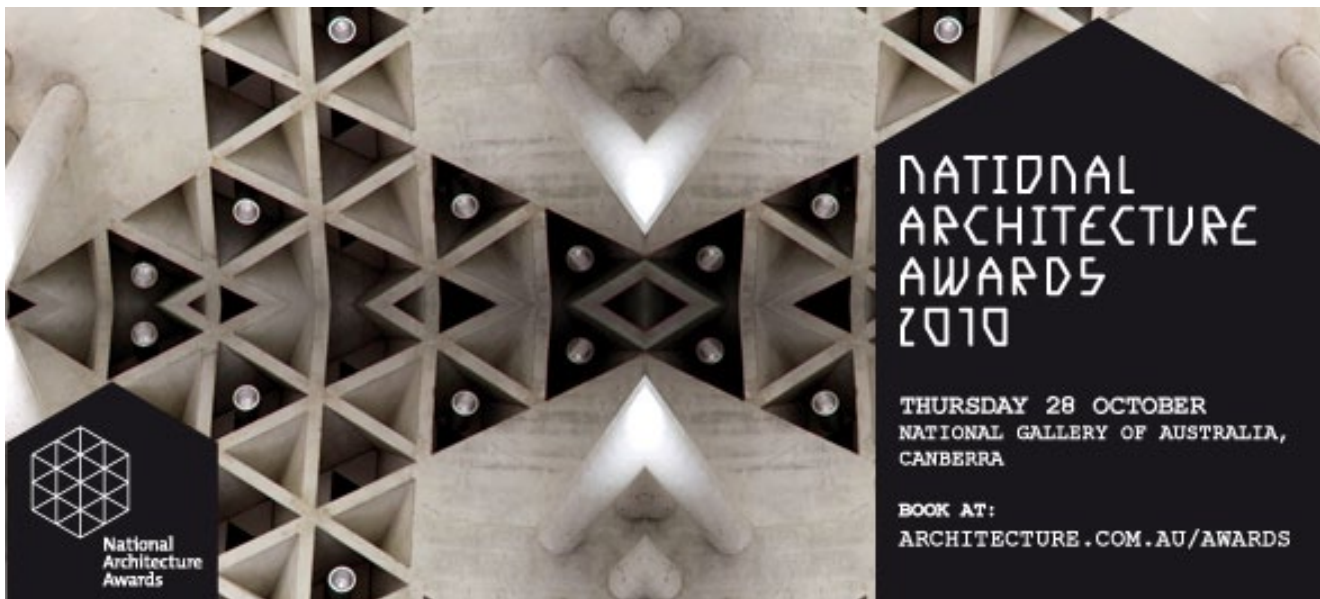
The Main Report, containing theory, glossary, design advice, graphs and charts, complements established references like the *AIRAH Handbook* and the *ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals*. It contains applications advice for building design, active solar systems, daylighting, solar hot water, solar pool heating, photovoltaics, greenhouses and industrial process heat.

The main body of the handbook presents a set of 46 tables which collate data from each of 28 sites across the continent. The sites chosen correspond substantially to the original climate zones used for the NatHERS (first generation) software. Most of the tables are organised on a monthly mean basis and are configured in different ways throughout each section to be relevant to specific tasks, such as passive solar building design, active solar system design, industrial process heat systems and photovoltaic systems.

The publication comes with AUSOLRAD software, CD and user guide. Two calculators are built into the software which enables specific shading and orientation characteristics to be entered for walls and windows. It is a natural complement to computer-based energy-rating software such as AccuRate, BERS and Ecotect.

ASRDH4 is available from www.auses.org.au

National Training & Events



28 October, Architecture Awards, Canberra

The National Architecture Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements and excellence in architecture in this night of nights. The 2010 national jury members are Melinda Dodson as chair, Max Pritchard, Peter Stutchbury, Elizabeth Watson Brown and Cameron Bruhn.

The 2010 awards evening will be held within the architecturally significant National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. The awards ceremony will be one of the very first major events to take place in the stunning new function space.

Tickets at www.architecture.com.au/awards

Australian Institute of Architects National Seminar Series: Climate Change Adaptation

The Institute's fourth seminar series for 2010 engages with the critical issue of climate change and how it will affect built environment professionals in practice. This two-hour seminar, developed by Deo Prasad and presented by Peter St. Clair and Steve King, explores how architects can deal effectively with climate adaptation issues. The seminar series is part of the Institute's ongoing Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Project.

Look in the State and Territory listings below for event details and visit the CPD page on the Institute website for further information:

www.architecture.com.au/i-cms?page=7173#CCA



ACT

23–26 November, ANZSES Solar Conference, Canberra

The national solar energy society's annual conference will be held in November.

www.anzsos.org

Northern Territory

6 October, Australian Institute of Architects National Seminar Series, Climate Change Adaptation

Refer to the course description at the top of this section.

South Australia

20-23 October, Green Roofs Conference 2010, Adelaide Zoo

The annual conference of Australia's green roofs and walls peak body will focus on driving the increase in green roof and wall installation, and discuss ways to demonstrate their technological and environmental benefits.

<http://greenroofs.wordpress.com/>

31 October - 4 November, PIA's SA Planning Conference, Adelaide Convention Centre

The Planning Institute of Australia's South Australian conference includes the Eastern Regional Organisation of Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) Golden Jubilee Congress.

www.planning.org.au

New South Wales

11–14 October, Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops, Sydney

The Centre for Environmental Training presents four workshops exploring aspects of water management:

Workshop 1: Fundamentals of Erosion and Sediment Control

Workshop 2: What's in the 'Blue Book'?

Workshop 3: Water Management on Construction Sites

Workshop 4: Preparing and Reviewing Plans for Soil and Water Management

For details contact the Centre for Environmental Training on (02) 4954 4997 or mail@environmentaltraining.com.au

12–15 October, The International Cities, Towns & Communities Society (ICTC) Conference & Exhibition, Opal Cove Convention Centre, Coffs Harbour

The International Cities, Towns and Communities Society conference will discuss the latest international and domestic developments in urban planning, design, development and sustainability.

www.ictcsociety.org

19 October, GBCA Masterclass Day Conference, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

The Green Building Council of Australia's one day masterclass will canvass a wide range of green building-related issues. The event will feature workshops on Greenstar rating tools for architects, regulation and policy, renewable energy, and zero emissions buildings. The event also includes a site tour of Sydney green office building, The Bond.

www.gbca.org.au

17-18 November, ABSA NABERS Assessor Course, Mercure Sydney

The Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA), in consultation with industry and government, has developed this thermal performance assessment course. The qualification meets the requirements of the NatHERS National Register of Accredited Assessors and trains you in second-generation assessment software such as First Rate 5. The 32-hour training program is delivered in three modules: Design and Construction Theory, Generation Software Operation (AccuRate or FirstRate 5) and Professional Practice.

Please note that course scheduling may be subject to change.

www.absa.net.au/training

Queensland

5 October, Australian Institute of Architects National Seminar Series, Climate Change Adaptation

Refer to the course description at the top of this section.

25 October, GBCA Masterclass Day Conference, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

The Green Building Council of Australia's one day masterclass will canvass a wide range of green building-related issues. The event will feature workshops on Greenstar rating tools for architects, regulation and policy, renewable energy, and zero emissions buildings.

www.gbca.org.au/events.asp?eventid=1358&source=events-listing

10–12 November, PIA's Queensland Planning Conference, Hyatt, Coolum

The Planning Institute of Australia's Queensland state conference will include the Planning for Excellence Awards dinner.

www.planning.org.au

Tasmania

30 September, Australian Institute of Architects National Seminar Series, Climate Change Adaptation

Refer to the course description at the top of this section.

Victoria

27 September, Australian Institute of Architects National Seminar Series, Climate Change Adaptation

Refer to the course description at the top of this section.

29th September, Melbourne Forum: Green Precincts

The Melbourne Forum is a series of free public talks with the goal of increasing the development and refurbishment of commercial buildings in Victoria.

This discussion will focus on urban sustainability innovations at a precinct level that would not be possible using an individual building by building approach. With Australian cities predicted to nearly double in population in the next 40 years, how can we retool our cities to make them more sustainable, liveable and more economically viable?

Guest speakers: Jeff Robinson, Sustainable Buildings Leader, Aurecon; Nick Alsop, Sustainability Victoria Precincts Program; Mark Allan, Architect and Urban Planner

RSVP melbforum@airah.org.au

4 October, The Future Makers Documentary, Kindness House, Fitzroy

Climate change think tank Beyond Zero Emissions present *The Future Makers*, a documentary exploring Australia's cutting-edge clean energy and sustainable technology innovations.

<http://beyondzeroemissions.org/events/discussion-group>

6–7 October, All-Energy Australia 2010, Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre



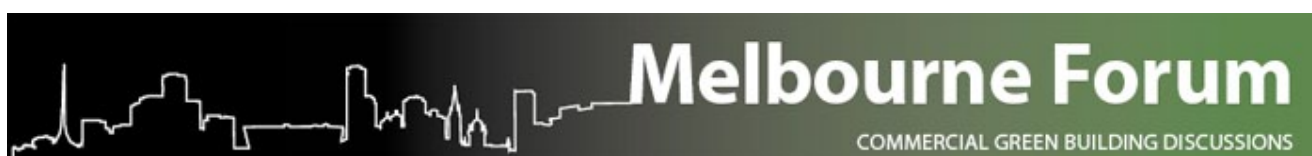
The All-Energy Australia conference and exhibition is the Asia-Pacific region's leading clean energy event. The event will feature presentations and exhibits showcasing a broad range of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. Energy and the built environment will be the topic of discussion on day two of the conference. Admission is free of charge to those with a professional interest in clean energy.

www.all-energy.com.au/About_All-Energy.html

28 October, GBCA Masterclass Day Conference, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

The Green Building Council of Australia's one day masterclass will canvass a wide range of green building-related issues. The event will feature workshops on Greenstar rating tools for architects, regulation and policy, renewable energy, and zero emissions buildings.

www.gbca.org.au



International Events

October

17–21 October, 48th International Making Cities Liveable, Charleston, South Carolina, USA

The 2010 International Making Cities Liveable conference will focus on urban planning for healthy and child-friendly communities. The conference will bring together design practitioners from around the world to develop tools for encouraging the sustainable development of cities.

www.livablecities.org/conferences/forthcoming-conferences/18.html

November

1–3 November, Skyrise Greenery Conference, Singapore

This conference will present the latest developments in green roofs and vertical landscaping practice. It provides a forum for international urban greenery experts from academia, architecture, landscape architecture, policy-makers and stakeholders to collaborate and discuss the emerging field.

www.skyrisegreenery.com

2–4 November, GreenBuild Arabia, Zara Expo, Jordan

GreenBuild Arabia is the Arab world's leading green building and energy conservation conference. The event features education opportunities for design and construction professionals interested in a sustainable built environment. The event will showcase new strategies and practices for creating high performance, sustainable buildings and cities, and provide networking opportunities for green building industry stakeholders in the Arab world.

www.greenbuildarabia.com/aboutus.php

3–19 November, Green Building Mission to Canada & US Greenbuild conference

The GBCA is arranging a green building mission to Canada and the US. The tour will visit leading green building projects in Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago and New York City, and includes attendance at the US Green Building Council's Greenbuild Conference. Visit the GBCA website to find out more and express interest.

www.gbca.org.au

17–19 November, Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, Chicago, USA

The United States Green Building Council's 2010 conference will attract American and international green building leaders. The event will feature prominent speakers, networking sessions, and green building tours.

www.greenbuildexpo.org/Events/greenbuild-events.aspx

23–25 November, First International Conference on Sustainability and the Future, British University in Egypt

British University in Egypt will host the inaugural International Conference on Sustainability and the Future. The conference aims to encourage researchers and professionals from around the globe to share knowledge and experiences to outline the direction for sustainable development.

<http://research.bue.edu.eg/fisc2010/>

30 November, Bait VeNoy – Israel Green Building Council Conference, Avenue Convention Center, Tel Aviv

Bait VeNoy and the Israel Green Building Council will host the 2010 green building conference with a focus on technologies, methods and applications. The conference is aimed at professionals in architecture, interior design, project management, acquisitions and logistics, industrial and building contracting. The convention will include an exhibition of cutting-edge projects and technologies from around the globe.

www.worldgbc.org

30 November – 3 December, Transitions to Sustainability Conference, Auckland, NZ

The New Zealand Society for Sustainability Engineering and Science presents their 2010 conference Transitions to Sustainability. The conference aims to advance the science of sustainability and its application to business, government and society, and will explore diverse subjects including technological evolutions towards sustainability, infrastructure and resilient societies.

www.nzsses.auckland.ac.nz/conference/index.htm

December

2–5 December, Arc Asia Pacific, Penang, Malaysia

Arc is a forum for the Asia Pacific's leading architects. The forum is designed to help architects learn about the most recent developments and opportunities that exist across the region. The forum features networking events in addition to seminars on a wide range of topics including green design and eco cities.

www.arc-ap.com/index.html

15–17 December, 1st International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization, Hong Kong

Increased urban development is now occurring all around the world. The first International Conference on Sustainable Development seeks to explore the management of urbanisation in terms of the sustainability of infrastructure, environment and energy.

www.polyu.edu.hk/fclu/ICSU2010/iframe_aim.html

2011

9–13 March, Subtropical Cities Conference 2011, Subtropical Urbanism: Beyond Climate Change, Florida, USA

The 3rd biennial Subtropical Cities conference will bring together experts in various disciplines for an exchange of ideas and best practices on subtropical urbanism in a changing climate. The conference is a collaborative partnership between the Florida Atlantic University College for Design and Social Inquiry (USA) the Queensland University of Technology Centre for Subtropical Design (Australia). The conference will address the following themes:

- The future of subtropical cities in the urban age
- Sustainable practices and decision making for resilient cities
- Adaptation to climate change

www.subtropicalcities2011.com

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