

Media Release

31 August 2009

Green building awarded highest waste accolade to date

An iconic 'green' building in South Melbourne has achieved the highest waste management rating awarded to date through the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS), which is a performance-based rating system for existing buildings.

The Szencorp Building at 40 Albert Road achieved a 4 Star rating, out of a possible 5 Stars, which denotes very good performance for its recycling and waste management performance.

The Szencorp Building has maintained its position as Australia's highest rated sustainable building since 2006, having continually achieved 5 Star NABERS ratings for Energy and Water, as well as a 6 Star Green Star Rating for the building's design from the Green Building Council of Australia.

Szencorp Building owner and developer, Peter Szental, said reaching the 4 Star Waste rating, which was launched in mid 2008, required significant effort.

"Our recycling rate is 76.3% and each occupant only produces 303 grams of waste per day, but we need to do better if we want a 5 Star Waste rating," Mr Szental said.

"By our calculations, we need to halve the amount of overall waste produced per person and increase the recycling rate by a further 10% to achieve a 5 Star Waste rating.

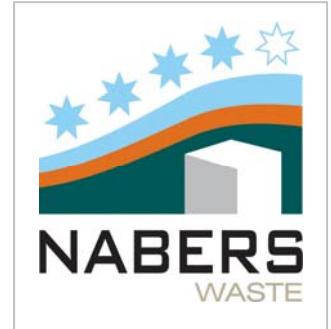
"Szencorp has never settled for second best, so our focus is now on improving our waste performance so we can reach the top rating," he said.

The NABERS suite of environmental performance ratings, which includes Energy, Water, Waste and Indoor Environment, is administered on a national basis by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

DECCW Manager for the Built Environment, Matthew Clark, congratulated Szencorp on its achievement.

"I'm encouraged to see businesses broadening their sustainability initiatives to include waste. Szencorp's impressive example is a step in the right direction for the industry as a whole," Mr Clark said.

"NABERS measures each element of sustainability separately, providing an accurate picture of a building's environmental performance. Buildings can easily track their performance and measure improvements across the board," Mr Clark added.



To help Szencorp achieve its goal of achieving a 5 Star Waste rating, it has engaged sustainable buildings consultancy, Great Forest Australia, to provide recommendations and conduct further waste audits.

Some of the actions Szencorp is soon to implement include supplying staff with reusable containers and mugs for take-away coffee and food from local cafes, donating old magazines to schools, and installing a worm farm on-site.

The Szencorp Building already has extensive recycling streams and an ongoing recycling and waste reduction education program for tenants.

When comparing the building's 2009 waste performance with a waste audit conducted in 2006, excellent improvements have been made. The building's recycling rate has improved from 67% to 76.3% and contamination in the recycling streams has dropped from 3% to less than 1%.

The Szencorp Building's 2009 waste audit revealed that each occupant* produces 79kg of waste (landfill and recycling) each year**, which is significantly less than the 173kg of waste generated by the average Australian office worker.***

For more information visit www.szencorp.net and www.theszencorpbldg.com

**Based on full-time occupant*

***Based on 261 working days*

****Source: NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2002*

ENDS

For more information or to arrange a photo or interview contact:

Merrin Morrison
Public Affairs Manager
Szencorp
Mobile: 0400 829 601
Email: merrin.morrison@szencorp.net