

MEDIA RELEASE

MORE SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR SMES TO GO GREEN

- *Co-funding cap doubled for Office, Retail, Restaurant and Supermarket*
- *Free feasibility assessments for SMEs to gauge their readiness to go green*
- *New Behavioural Change Pilot Programme to encourage building users to adopt sustainable behaviour*

Singapore, 14 September 2017 – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) is doubling the amount given to building owners and tenants that are small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to help them green their premises. In addition, BCA will roll out free feasibility assessments for SMEs to gauge how they fare against the existing BCA Green Mark standards. These were announced by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources & Ministry of Health, at the BCA Breakfast Talk for CEOs. She also shared details on a new behavioural change programme that BCA is piloting, to encourage building occupants to consciously adopt sustainable practices.

2. Based on BCA's building energy benchmarking report released annually, building users, namely tenants and occupants, are responsible for about half of the total electricity consumption. Hence, in BCA's most recent edition of the Green Building Masterplan, a slew of initiatives was introduced to encourage stronger collaboration between building owners and tenants in their green efforts. This includes the BCA Green Mark Pearl Award and BCA Green Mark Portfolio Programme. The Green Mark Pearl Award recognises building owners who go the extra mile to help their tenants adopt environmentally sustainable solutions. BCA has also made it easier for tenants to green their premises through the Green Mark Portfolio Programme. It simplifies the Green Mark certification process for businesses with multiple outlets such as a supermarket chain. More support will be provided to organisations that are interested to take the next step in their sustainability journey.

Enhancement of Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises

3. Under the existing \$50 million BCA Green Mark (GM) Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises (Tenants), BCA co-funds up to 50% of the costs incurred for energy retrofits in existing buildings and premises. ***The co-funding cap will be doubled with effect from 30 September 2017*** (Refer to Annex A for details):

- For office premises:
 - GM Certified and Gold rating: from \$15,000 to \$30,000
 - GM Gold^{PLUS} and Platinum rating: from \$20,000 to \$40,000
- For retail, restaurant and supermarket premises:
 - GM Certified and Gold rating: from \$10,000 to \$20,000
 - GM Gold^{PLUS} and Platinum rating: from \$15,000 to \$30,000

Free feasibility assessments for SMEs

4. Besides funding support, BCA will introduce Green Mark (GM) User-Centric Feasibility Assessments to assist SMEs in greening their premises. Under the pilot programme, SMEs can opt for a free basic feasibility assessment to find out how green their premises are against the BCA Green Mark criteria. The programme will offer 50 free assessments to SMEs owning or leasing office, retail, restaurant and supermarket premises, on a first-come-first-served basis (Refer to Annex B for details).

5. The Green Mark assessment will be conducted on-site by BCA student interns who will be trained and supervised by BCA officers. In doing so, the interns also benefit from being actively engaged in the process and gain greater insights on sustainability issues beyond their classroom curriculum. After the assessment, applicants will receive a report on where they stand against the GM criteria. The report will also include recommendations on how they can further improve efforts to reach the basic BCA Green Mark criteria.

BCA-SGBC Behavioural change pilot programme

6. Recognising the importance of engaging building users, BCA and the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) are collaborating on a first-of-its-kind behavioural change programme to help companies reach out to their staff and occupants. The pilot programme seeks to engage building occupants and end-users through a tailored campaign and encourage them to take active steps to adopt sustainable behaviour, such as responsible usage of energy consuming equipment, within their organisations and even at home. The campaigns would be scalable and can be replicated across more premises, especially for organisations with a large portfolio of businesses comprising higher energy consuming premises. The pilot run will involve 10 organisations across two years in phases. (Refer to Annex C for details).

7. The National University Health System (NUHS) is amongst the first few organisations that will be participating in the pilot programme. Hospitals are large facilities with round-the-clock operations, which means that they consume energy 24 hours a day. Institutions in the NUHS group, in particular, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital, which are housed within a BCA Green Mark Platinum development, have been driving environmental sustainability within their organisations.

8 Mr Ng Kian Swan, Chief Operating Officer, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital said: “We are proud to be part of this BCA pilot programme so that we can do our part to implement practical measures to bring about this positive behavioural change. We do not need a big movement to get our colleagues to go green and be environmentally friendly. We just need to have the passion and conviction to champion the cause. JurongHealth Campus has set up a Green Committee to coordinate and drive hospital-wide energy and water conservation efforts. Recently, we kicked off our inaugural Green Day to create awareness on how everyone can do their part to save the environment just by making

small changes in their everyday routine. We will continue to draw ideas from this pilot programme to encourage our staff and public to go green.”

9 Commenting on the importance of engaging SMEs and building users, BCA’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Hugh Lim said: “We are aware that some SMEs hesitate when considering whether to embark on their green journey. This is why we are increasing our support for them through enhanced funding and measures to encourage them to take that important first step in greening their buildings and premises. We are also heartened that a larger organisation like the National University Health System is making a conscious effort to engage its staff on green practices and cultivate them to be champions of change in the workplace. We hope more organisations will follow suit to harness the potential and rewards of green buildings.”

10 The BCA Breakfast Talk for CEOs is part of the Singapore Green Building Week 2017 that runs from 11 – 14 September, and is an exclusive by-invitation event featuring prominent industry leaders who will speak on environmental sustainability topics and issues targeted at C-suites and top management from major developers, building owners, building tenants and other industry stakeholders.

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 14 September 2017

About BCA

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. BCA’s mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, it aims to differentiate Singapore’s built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, its vision is to have "a future-ready built environment for Singapore". Together with its education arm, the BCA Academy, BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape a future-ready built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit www.bca.gov.sg.

Annex A – Factsheet on \$50mil BCA Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises (GMIS-EBP) for tenants

Background

In September 2014, BCA launched the \$50 million BCA Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises (GMIS-EBP) to incentivise energy efficiency (EE) improvements in existing buildings and tenanted premises. It provides a cash incentive to co-fund up to 50% of the qualifying costs¹ incurred for energy retrofits in existing buildings and premises. The scheme applies to both building owners and tenants that are small and medium enterprises (SMEs), or those building owners which have a proportion of tenants who are SMEs.

Objective

BCA enhanced the GMIS-EBP (Tenant) component of the scheme to **provide stronger support to the tenants** in raising the environmental sustainability of buildings.

Target audience

The latest enhancements under the GMIS-EBP (Tenants) **component extends support to all SME² commercial tenants owning/leasing an office, retail, restaurant and supermarket premises.**

New enhancements under GMIS-EBP (Tenants)

The key enhancements to the scheme are:

- a) **Double the co-funding cap for Office, Retail, Restaurant and Supermarket Premises;** and
- b) **Expand the list of energy efficient equipment funded to include list of equipment under the NEA Energy Labelling Scheme (3-ticks and above based on a 5-ticks band) for commonly used items in Office, Retail, Restaurant and Supermarket Premises (i.e. air-conditioners and refrigerators).**

The above enhancements under the GMIS-EBP (Tenant) will apply to applications received on or after 30 September 2017.

¹ 'Qualifying Costs' means the actual costs (excluding GST) involved in the Energy Improvement Works which consists only of the following items: (a) cost of such Approved Equipment; (b) cost of installation of such Approved Equipment; and (c) Professional Services.

² 'Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)' refers to companies governed by the Companies Act where (i) at least 30% of the company's ordinary shares are held directly or indirectly by Singaporean/Singapore PR(s) and (ii) either the company's Group annual sales turnover is not more than S\$100 million or company's Group employment size is not more than 200 employees. Notwithstanding the above, BCA shall decide in its sole discretion whether a company/tenant is a SME.

Overview of BCA Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises

S/No	Type of Fund	What is Funded?	How much is the Funding?						Who is Eligible?	
1	For tenants: Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises (GMIS-EBP)	<i>[Enhanced]</i> Co-funding of the retrofitting cost for energy improvements which includes lightings, air-conditioners, refrigerators, sensors and other energy efficiency related works	Green Mark Rating		EEI (kWh/m²/yr)	Lighting power budget (W/m²)	Co-funding Rate	OLD Cap Amount	NEW Cap Amount	Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) ³ commercial tenants owning/leasing an office, retail, restaurant and supermarket premises, located in all buildings.
			Certified & Gold	+	No requisite	10 or lower	40%	\$15,000	\$30,000	
			Gold ^{PLUS} & Platinum		75 or lower	9 or lower	50%	\$20,000	\$40,000	
Table 1: Proposed cap amount for Office Premises										
			Green Mark Rating		Lighting Power Budget (W/m²)		Co-funding Rate	OLD Cap Amount	NEW Cap Amount	
					Retail & Supermarket	Restaurant				
			Certified & Gold	+	25 or lower	15 or lower	40%	\$10,000	\$20,000	
			Gold ^{PLUS} & Platinum		23 or lower	13 or lower	50%	\$15,000	\$30,000	
Table 2: Proposed cap amount for Retail, Restaurant and Supermarket Premises										

³ The definition of SME, in accordance with SPRINGs definition is:

- Minimum 30% local shareholding **AND**
- Company's Group annual sales turnover not more than S\$100 million; **OR**
Company's Group employment size not more than 200 workers

S/No	Type of Fund	What is Funded?	How much is the Funding?	Who is Eligible?
2	<p data-bbox="208 233 405 296"><u>For building owners:</u></p> <p data-bbox="208 331 405 571">Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises (GMIS-EBP)</p>	<p data-bbox="436 233 719 632">Co-funding of the retrofitting cost for energy improvements, which includes total replacement and optimisation* of air-conditioning systems, lightings and other energy efficiency related works</p>	<p data-bbox="745 233 1025 264"><u>Large-sized buildings</u></p> <p data-bbox="745 300 1570 331">➤ Co-funds up to 50%, or up to S\$3 million for building owners</p> <p data-bbox="745 367 1055 399"><u>Medium-sized buildings</u></p> <p data-bbox="745 434 1525 466">Co-funds up to 50%, or up to S\$700,000 for building owners</p>	<ul data-bbox="1747 233 2141 911" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1747 233 2141 671">• Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) building owners, or building owners who are not SME but have at least 10% of its tenants who are SMEs of existing private commercial buildings such as retail, hotels, office buildings, mixed developments, office and retail buildings in business parks <li data-bbox="1747 711 2141 911">• Building Owners of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs), Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWOs) and religious organisations

**List of commonly approved energy efficient equipment and consultancy works
(for tenants)**

- 1) Energy-efficient light fittings i.e. T5, LEDs
- 2) Electronic and high frequency ballast
- 3) LED exit lights
- 4) Lighting Control System
- 5) Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Lightings
- 6) Energy Saving Lighting Controllers
- 7) Motion Sensors
- 8) Photocell Sensors
- 9) Energy Management/ Monitoring System (EMS)
- 10) Electrical sub-meters
- 11) 3 ticks Refrigerators (Recognised under NEA's Energy Labelling, Tick Rating System) *[New]*
- 12) 3 ticks Split Unit Air-Conditioners (Recognised under NEA's Energy Labelling, Tick Rating System) *[New]*
- 13) Consultancy fees for initial set-up i.e. QP, PE, LEW, GM assessment, IAQ audit

Note: Any other equipment not in the above common list will be subject to review and approval from BCA.

Annex B – Factsheet on BCA’s pilot Green Mark User-Centric Feasibility Assessments

Background

BCA has launched a new initiative - the “Pilot Green Mark (GM) User-Centric Feasibility Assessments” - to assist Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)⁴ in greening their premises. Under this programme, SMEs can opt for this free basic feasibility assessment to find out how green their premises are against the BCA GM criteria.

Objective

We hope to encourage and spur as many SME tenants as possible to green their premises and reap the benefits early. Through this assessment, we hope to strengthen the business case and promote behavioural change among the tenants through the adoption of energy efficient equipment.

Target audience

The Scheme is available to SMEs owning/leasing office, retail, restaurant and supermarket premises within a building.

Eligibility

The pilot programme will offer 50 free assessments on a first-come-first-served basis.

To qualify, applicants would need to meet the following criteria:

1. Own/lease an existing commercial (office, retail, restaurant and supermarket) premise, with 6 months of electricity bills
2. Applicable to SME owners/tenants, with a lease period of at least 2 years
3. Not applicable to owners/tenants who have applied or achieved GM, or are being assessed under GM or under any GM programmes (*Refer to Annex A on existing BCA GM user-centric schemes*)
4. Only applicable for 10 premises per building
5. The free GM user-centric feasibility assessment must be completed by 31 August 2018, unless otherwise agreed

⁴Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) refers to companies governed by the Companies Act where (i) at least 30% of the company’s ordinary shares are held directly or indirectly by Singaporean/Singapore PR(s) and (ii) either the company’s Group annual sales turnover is not more than S\$100 million or company’s Group employment size is not more than 200 employees. Notwithstanding the above, BCA shall decide in its sole discretion whether a company/tenant is a SME.

6. Applicant to evaluate recommendations from the feasibility study and develop a plan to meet the GM-Ready level

Feasibility assessment process

Once the applicant has been successfully accepted into the programme, the pilot free GM user-centric feasibility assessment will follow the 3-step process below.

Step 1: Entry Meeting

Applicant will be briefed on the requirements/process and the timeline for the completion of the assessment

Step 2: Site Assessment

The on-site free GM user-centric feasibility assessment will be conducted by BCA interns/students who are trained and supervised by BCA officers. These students will first acquire basic GM knowledge by shadowing BCA officers on a few GM projects.

Step 3: Report Delivery

Applicant will receive a basic GM user-centric feasibility assessment report, which will state where they stand against the GM criteria. The report will also include recommendations on how they can further improve their green efforts to reach the basic BCA Green Mark criteria.

GM Readiness	Description
GM Ready (min. 50 points)	Applicant will be provided with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A report indicating how ready the applicant is to be GM certified and recommendations to achieve the GM certification. ▪ A resource kit (e.g. information on GM incentives and programmes) to guide applicants on how they can carry out energy efficiency renovation to their premises and proceed to the next stage to be GM certified.
Almost Ready (min. 40 points) Not Quite Ready (< 40 points)	Applicant will be provided with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A report indicating how ready the applicant is to be GM certified and recommendations to achieve GM-Ready. ▪ A resource kit (e.g. information on GM incentives and programmes) to guide applicants on how they can carry out energy efficiency renovation to their premises and to proceed to the next stage to be GM certified.

IMPORTANT DATES

Launch Date of Pilot Programme	14 September 2017
Programme Commencement	15 September 2017
Programme Completion	31 August 2018

Overview of BCA Green Mark User-Centric schemes

GM User-Centric Schemes	Launched Date	About the scheme	Targeted Developments								
Office Interior	2009	The BCA Green Mark for Office Interior aims to promote the use of environmentally friendly features and sustainable practices by office tenants.	New and existing office interior in a building or a standalone								
Retail	2012	The BCA Green Mark for Retail is a dedicated green building rating system for the retail sector. It was launched to guide and encourage tenants to fit out their shops in a sustainable manner that reduces the operating costs, energy consumption, and cooling load whilst maintaining the required aesthetics. It gives recognition to retailers for their commitment in reducing their environmental impact.	<p>New and existing retail outlets in a building or a standalone.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Retail type</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fashion</td> <td>Clothing, Shoes, Apparel, Inner wear, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specialty</td> <td>Jewellery, Watch, Electrical, IT and Optical</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General</td> <td>7-11, Hairdresser, Chemist, Book and media (DVD, Music) shops, Medical Suites, Bank, and News-agents etc.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Retail type	Description	Fashion	Clothing, Shoes, Apparel, Inner wear, etc.	Specialty	Jewellery, Watch, Electrical, IT and Optical	General	7-11, Hairdresser, Chemist, Book and media (DVD, Music) shops, Medical Suites, Bank, and News-agents etc.
Retail type	Description										
Fashion	Clothing, Shoes, Apparel, Inner wear, etc.										
Specialty	Jewellery, Watch, Electrical, IT and Optical										
General	7-11, Hairdresser, Chemist, Book and media (DVD, Music) shops, Medical Suites, Bank, and News-agents etc.										
Restaurant	2011	The BCA Green Mark for Restaurants was developed to promote and recognise environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices and features in restaurant outlets and operations.	New and existing restaurants in a building or as a standalone.								
Supermarkets	2012	The BCA Green Mark for Supermarkets was developed to promote and recognise environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices and features in supermarket outlets and operations.	New and existing supermarkets in a building or as a standalone.								

Annex C – Fact sheet on BCA-SGBC Behavioural Change Pilot Programme

Background

In Singapore, the building sector contributes more than 30% of the nation's electricity consumption. Therefore, the building sector plays a vital role in helping to reduce energy consumption. Under the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint (SSB), Singapore has targeted to improve energy intensity by 35% from 2005 levels. In order to achieve a sustainable built environment, we require commitment across the entire value chain, from policy makers to developers as well as the end-users. In fact, BCA's Building Energy Benchmarking Report showed that tenant and occupant activities within a building take up as much as 50 per cent of the total electricity consumption of a typical office or retail building. Hence, beyond focusing on the building infrastructure, user behaviour is key in maximising energy savings.

Leveraging on the potential and importance of driving positive energy consumption behaviour among building users (i.e. occupants and tenants), the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) will be launching a first-of-its-kind behavioural change programme, the ***BCA-SGBC Behavioural Change Pilot Programme***.

Objective

This programme aims to drive behavioural change in building occupants and end-users by getting them to consciously adopt sustainable behaviour and reduce the overall environmental impact.

Programme Framework

The pilot programme will involve 10 organisations across 2 years in phases. Each phase would comprise about 2 – 5 organisations and span over 5 – 6 months.

Participating organisations would need to commit to the programme's processes, timeline, as well as provide 3 campaign leaders. The organisations would also be obligated to share their experience and lessons learnt with others at relevant platforms. Organisations would also be recognised for their commitment and achievements through various platforms and publications.

Potential Outcomes

Achieving Greater Energy Savings for Building Occupants/ End-Users

In this Programme, customised behavioural change campaigns would be developed for participating organisations, with a key objective of achieving energy savings. In addition, behavioural interventions under this programme will nudge people to make

better environmental choices that are better for society as a whole. These choices transcend beyond the workplace boundaries and can be replicated at home.

This programme also targets interventions at organisations who are more environmentally conscious, keen and most likely to change their behaviour. As these campaigns would be scalable to be rolled out across more premises, organisations with a larger portfolio of businesses comprising higher energy consuming premises would be prioritised to reap a greater impact.

Based on overseas experience, it is estimated that the behavioural change programme can lead to energy savings of about 2-3%. However, energy savings achieved could differ, depending on the size of the organisation and its current environmental sustainability journey.

Raising Industry Capability

This Programme will also build up capabilities of building and facility managers to provide them with the skills to run and sustain behavioural change campaigns and drive environmental sustainability measures within their organisations and premises. In addition, with the knowledge acquired, these campaign leaders would be able to tailor campaigns to the organisation's specific needs which could then be scaled up and applied where necessary. ***About 3 change managers per organisation would be trained under the Programme.***

Creating Greater Awareness

To raise awareness on the effectiveness of such behavioural change campaigns, ***case studies for the 10 participating organisations will be developed and published upon project completion.***

BCA would then showcase the success of the campaigns at suitable platforms such as the annual Singapore Green Building Week (SGBW)/ International Green Building Conference (IGBC).

Through greater public outreach from the behavioural change campaigns successes and publicity, the public can be more aware and mindful of the effects of their actions. This would also help to further the green building agenda and create greater awareness and adoption of the various green building initiatives and sustainability efforts of Singapore.

In addition, workshops/ seminars will be conducted to create greater awareness and reach a greater spread of organisations. Through these workshops/ seminars, organisations would acquire better appreciation and knowledge to start on their own behavioural change campaigns.