



HOW GREEN GLOBES™ WORKS

Green Globes is an online tool that offers a comprehensive and interactive experience.

Once the user completes an online questionnaire, the system generates a point score and offers project design suggestions aimed at reducing the building's overall environmental impact. Suggestions are supported by links to other resources that provide best design practices, standards and information on building systems and materials. They are designed to help users achieve a higher Green Globes score and, ultimately, a better performing building.

Projects are awarded up to 1,000 points based on their performance in seven areas of assessment:

1. Project Management – 50 Points

Points are awarded for: integrated design, environmental purchasing, commissioning, documentation and emergency response planning.

2. Site – 115 Points

Points are awarded for: site development, reducing ecological impacts, the enhancement of watershed features and site ecology improvement

3. Energy – 360 Points

Points are awarded for: energy consumption, energy demand minimization, “right sized” energy-efficient systems, renewable sources of energy and energy-efficient transportation

4. Water – 100 Points

Points are awarded for: water consumption, water-conserving features and the reduction of off-site water treatment

5. Resources – 100 Points

Points are awarded for: materials with low environmental impact, minimized consumption and depletion of material resources, re-use of existing structures, building durability, adaptability, and disassembly and the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste

6. Emissions, Effluents and Other Impacts – 75 Points

Points are awarded for: air emissions, ozone depletion and global warming, contamination of sewers or waterways, land and water pollution, integrated pest management, storage of hazardous materials

7. Indoor Environment – 200 Points

Points are awarded for: effective ventilation system, source control of indoor pollutants, lighting design and integration of lighting systems, thermal comfort and acoustic comfort

GREEN GLOBES SCORING

Projects that achieve a score of 35% or more become eligible for a Green Globes rating of one, two, three or four globes, as follows:

- One Globe: 35-54%
- Two Globes: 55-69%
- Three Globes: 70-84%
- Four Globes: 85-100%

However, a building cannot be promoted as having achieved a Green Globes rating until it has undergone a two-stage verification process.

Stage I is initiated once the user completes the online questionnaire, which is then verified against the construction documentation generated during the design process. Providing the building is on target to achieve a minimum 35 percent of the 1,000 possible points, the design team receives a Certificate of Achievement.

Stage II verification occurs post-construction and includes a site visit and walk-through by a qualified third-party assessor. The GBI currently oversees a team of Green Globes-trained verifiers, who are primarily licensed architects and engineers with experience in building sciences and sustainability issues.

The GBI recently announced an agreement with CSA America, Inc. to develop an independently accredited Green Globes Personnel Certification Program. Based on ISO 17024 General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification Systems of Persons, it will be the industry's first independently administered certification program for third-party verifiers of green buildings.