

Special Issue

Sustainability Rating Tools in the Built Environment

Message from the Guest Editors

The concept of sustainability has been around for decades, though has more recently come to the forefront in the built environment through the proliferation and uptake of rating tools used to assess, measure, and capture the sustainability impacts of homes, commercial buildings, and precincts. Some tools deal with singular aspects whilst other tools have been developed with broader and holistic objectives covering multiple environmental, social, and financial considerations. Much research has gone into the development of these tools, and literally hundreds of different rating tools and systems are found globally. However, some key tools have gained substantial traction in commercial and residential buildings and community development, namely LEED, BREEAM, Green Star, and Energy Star, to name but a few. Rating tools in the built environment have been variously utilised as forms of 'sticks' or 'carrots'; either as minimum standards requirements and/or incentivised best practice, either directly or indirectly.

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I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in Sustainability, an international open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. The journal publishes original research articles, reviews, conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

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