

Sustainability at South Bank

South Bank Corporation is continually working to create a sustainable future at South Bank. In 2012, the precinct was recognised as a national sustainability leader when it became the first community in Australia and one of only four communities in the world to achieve Silver Certification Status from EarthCheck, an international sustainability certification program for the travel and tourism industries.

EarthCheck

To achieve Silver Certification Status from EarthCheck, South Bank's sustainability practices were measured and benchmarked against more than 1000 other communities, businesses and governments from 70 countries across the world. The audit found that South Bank's water savings rating, cleaning products rating, pesticide products rating and provision of green spaces all exceed best practice levels, while energy consumption, potable water consumption and green house gas emissions are all close to exceeding best practice levels. South Bank's waste recycling and disposal methods were rated as above the baseline level.

Water

South Bank is home to a range of water efficient facilities including rain tanks, dual flush toilets, waterless urinals and three second push-style taps in all public toilets. In 2011, the Corporation also developed Rain Bank, South Bank's innovative stormwater harvesting and reuse centre. Rain Bank can capture, store and treat up to 77 megalitres of stormwater each year, which is enough to provide 85% of the Parklands' irrigation and non-potable water requirements. It also recycles the majority of water used to backwash South Bank's pool filters. Rain Bank is an exemplar project in the water industry and has received several prestigious awards including the Premier's Sustainability Award in 2012, and the Healthy Waterways Water Sensitive Urban Design Award in 2011.

Waste

The Corporation is constantly working to reduce the amount of waste produced at South Bank as well as its impact on the environment. Just some of the precinct's sustainable waste management measures include recycling programs for all fluorescent lighting, batteries, paper products, green waste, oil, glass and aluminium products, and using bio-friendly products for cleaning, landscaping and general maintenance.

Energy

South Bank's sustainable energy management initiatives include installing energy-saving fluorescent and LED lights throughout the precinct and using a heat exchange system at Rain Bank to cool the treatment plant without electricity.

Horticulture

South Bank's landscape has been cleverly designed with sustainability in mind. For example, the new gardens at River Quay, South Bank's waterfront dining precinct, were made using locally sourced stones and recycled timbers. We also ensure that most plants in the precinct are native to Queensland, which means that they thrive in the local climate and are drought resistant, requiring minimal watering to maintain.

Development

The Corporation uses the Green Star system to guide sustainable development in the precinct. Recent developments such as the ABC's Brisbane Headquarters and the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre Expansion have both received a five star rating. Some of South Bank's other new developments were not eligible to be rated under the Green Star system, but they also feature state of the art, environmentally friendly designs. Rain Bank was built with mostly recycled materials, and River Quay's fit-out included recycled building materials, glazing selection to minimise heat loads, water efficient fittings such as a rain tank and bi-fold doors to maximise natural ventilation.

Community

With an estimated 10 million visitors coming to the precinct each year, South Bank is truly one of the world's great community spaces. The Corporation's community-minded sustainability initiatives include installing bike racks and walking and cycling tracks in the Parklands to encourage active transport, building a viewing deck and educational animations at Rain Bank to teach the community about water recycling, installing a community herb garden at the Cultural Forecourt to encourage use of locally grown produce, and producing Regional Flavours, an annual, free community event that educates Brisbane locals about regional produce.

Tenants

The Corporation manages over 80 retail and hospitality tenants at South Bank and is always actively educating them about sustainable practices. For example, the Corporation has issued all tenants with a Sustainable Tenancy Guide (a specially designed document that outlines case studies and easy ways to improve sustainability) and all new leases issued by the Corporation have substantial green obligations including strict requirements for energy, water and waste use. The Corporation also participates in the Green Table scheme, which is run by the Restaurant and Catering Association of Australia and aims to improve the environmental and economic performance of food retailers by improving energy, water and waste efficiency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about sustainability at South Bank, head to our website www.southbankcorporation.com.au or contact us on info@south-bank.net.au or (07) 3867 2051.

