

Green Schools Programme



Frequently
Asked
Questions

Question Summary

1 GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

1.1 What is Green School Programme?

2 GREEN MARK FOR EXISTING SCHOOLS CRITERIA

2.1 What is Green Mark?

2.2 What are the benefits of the BCA Green Mark Scheme?

2.3 Is there any minimum award level that the school will be required to meet?

2.4 If the school is required to meet the minimum Gold award, will the school be able to go for higher tier awards?

2.5 What is a pre-requisite?

2.6 What happens if the school do not meet the pre-requisites or minimum number of points required?

2.7 How can the school attain the Green Mark Certification?

2.8 What is the process of Green Mark Certification?

2.9 When will the Green Mark Certification be awarded?

2.10 What are the fees incurred for Green Mark Certification?

2.11 How long is the Green Mark Certification valid for and what does the school do next?

2.12 Why should I apply for re-certification?

2.13 What are the fees incurred for re-certification?

3 BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

3.1 What is the Back to School Programme?

3.2 How would these students support the school in obtaining the Green Mark Certification?

3.3 Does this mean that the school's staff do not have to be involved in the Green Mark process?

1 GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

1.1 What is the Green Schools Programme?

- Under the Green School Programme, several initiatives were introduced to green both the schools' infrastructure as well as its student community. To ensure that schools are green, the Green Mark for Existing Schools criteria was established.
- Greened schools would provide a climate-ready and conducive learning environment for the next generation to learn about environmental sustainability and carry out green practices.
- One of such initiatives is the Back to School programme, a structured internship experience tailored for tertiary students to help schools develop a framework for sustainability awareness and education.

2 GREEN MARK CERTIFICATION FOR EXISTING SCHOOLS CRITERIA

2.1 What is Green Mark?

- BCA Green Mark is a green building rating tool that assesses buildings environmental performance. This scheme serves as a guide for building owners to incorporate environmental practices in their infrastructure management and operation to achieve the following objectives:
 - (a) Facilitate reduction in energy, water and materials resources usage
 - (b) Reduce environmental impact
 - (c) Improve indoor environmental quality for better health and well-being
 - (d) Provides a guide/framework continual improvement in environmental sustainability

2.2 What are the benefits of the BCA Green Mark Scheme?

- Green Mark certification process would ensure that the following are in place:
 - (a) Health checks on school existing building systems
 - (b) Better documentation of school's equipment and facilities
 - (c) Sufficient environmental sustainability education programme
 - (d) Healthy Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ) is provided in school
 - (e) Energy and water efficient building systems, therefore minimizing utility consumption
 - (f) Sustainable consumption of resources to reduce potential environmental impact, waste and pollution
- In addition, the BCA Green Mark criteria commends schools who have programmes to encourage students to take on leadership roles to be environmental envoys. This is aligned with the 21st Century Competencies Framework in preparing the students to be confident people, self-directed learners, concerned citizens and active contributors.

2.3 Is there any minimum award level that the school will be required to meet?

- Yes.
 - Under Public Sector Taking the Lead in Environmental Sustainability (PSTLES),
 - All existing public sector buildings with more than 10,000m² air-conditioned floor area are to attain the Green Mark Gold^{PLUS} rating
 - All existing public sector buildings with more than 5,000m² gross floor area and less than 10,000m² air-conditioned floor area are to attain the Green Mark Gold rating

- The criteria and minimum points required could be found at http://www.bca.gov.sg/greenmark/others/GMES_rev2.pdf
(Pre-requisite criteria need to be fulfilled accordingly)

2.4 If the school is required to meet the minimum GOLD AWARD (*Existing Building with Air-con GFA <10,000 m², GFA>5,000 m²*), will the school be able to go for higher tier awards (*i.e. Gold^{PLUS} and Platinum*)?

- Yes, school would be eligible for higher tier award if all pre-requisites for higher tier awards were met.

2.5 What is a pre-requisite?

- Pre-requisite are mandatory criteria that schools would have to fulfil to be certified. For higher tiered awards (*i.e. Platinum and Gold^{PLUS}*), additional pre-requisites would have to be met.
- The pre-requisites requirement can be found at page 2 of the Green Mark for Existing School Criteria http://www.bca.gov.sg/greenmark/others/GMES_rev2.pdf

2.6 What happens if the school do not meet the pre-requisites or minimum number of points required??

- Pre-requisites and minimum number of points required would have to be met. In the case where existing schools' programmes or infrastructure do not meet the pre-requisites, improvements and enhancements will have to be made to meet the requirements.

2.7 How can the school attain the Green Mark Certificate?

- The school may apply for Green Mark assessment through <https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMarkOnline/>
- Documents and toolkit have been prepared by BCA to facilitate with the certification programme. Alternatively, the school may choose to participate in BCA Back to School Programme.

2.8 What is the process of Green Mark Certification?

1 APPLICATION

- Log on to: <http://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMarkOnline/SignUp.aspx> for **registration** of online account.
- Submission of **application** with relevant supporting documents for certification is required during application.
- Upon acceptance of application and fee payable, a BCA Green Mark **Assessor** will be assigned for the project.

2 PRE-ASSESSMENT

- Pre-assessment will be conducted to give project team a **better understanding** of the criteria and **evaluation** of the certification sought.
- It allows the BCA assessors to understand the project better and to provide **clarifications** for the project pertaining to credits for the Green Mark assessment.

(½ day)

3 ACTUAL ASSESSMENT

- Actual assessment will be conducted once the **documentary evidence** are ready.
- **Assessment** process includes the following:
 - Project Presentation to assessors
 - Verification of documents
 - On-site verification

(1 day)

4 POST-ASSESSMENT

- Project team will be required to submit the **Information Template** after the actual assessment.
- For projects with potential **Green Mark Gold^{PLUS}** and **Platinum** rating, an additional **board presentation** assessed by the Senior Management of BCA will be conducted.

2.9 When will the Green Mark Certification be awarded?

- Upon completion of the entire assessment, a letter of award indicating the certification level of projects will be sent out to the team within 4 to 6 weeks.

2.10 What are the fees incurred for Green Mark Certification?

- The assessment fees for Green Mark Certification are determined by Gross Floor Areas of the schools as follow:

Category of Existing Schools (Gross Floor Area)	Assessment Fees
Small (<50,000 m ²)	\$4,060
Medium (50,000 m ² to 100,000 m ²)	\$4,860
Large (>100,000 m ²)	\$5,550

**As updated on Jan 2017. Assessment fee is subject to changes. Please refer to BCA website for the latest assessment fees:*

https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/green_mark_buildings.html

2.11 How long is the Green Mark Certification valid for and what does the school do next?

- Certification is valid for 3 years. Upon expiration, school may choose to undergo Green Mark Re-certification on a voluntary basis.

2.12 Why should I apply for re-certification?

- Re-certification is encouraged as it serves as a regular review/audit on schools' building systems, consumption trends, and environmental programmes.

2.13 What are the fees incurred for Green Mark Recertification?

- The assessment fee for Green Mark recertification for existing schools is \$3,340*.

**As updated on Jan 2017. Assessment fee is subject to changes. Please refer to BCA website for the latest assessment fees:*

https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/green_mark_buildings.html

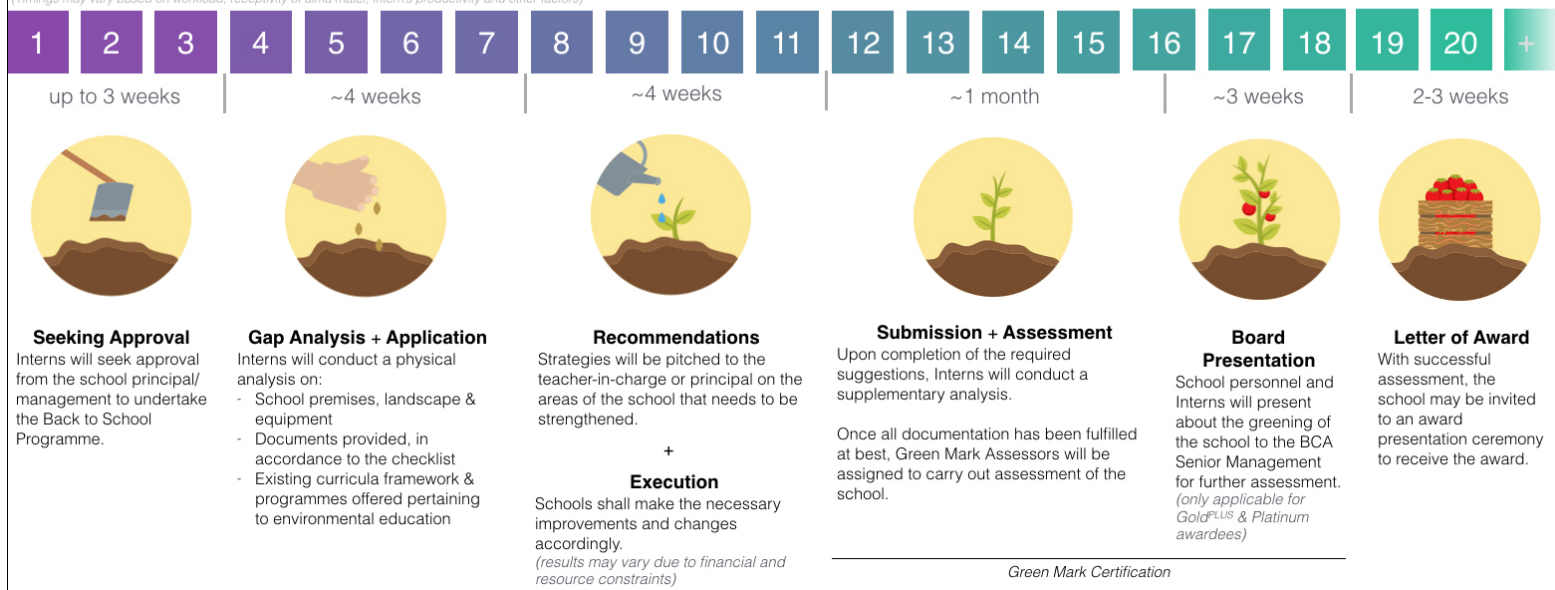
3 BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

3.1 What is the Back to School Programme?

- Back to School programme is an internship programme for students. It aims at enhancing student engagement and education in environmental sustainability and to groom the next generation of green-collar workforce.
- Student interns will be deployed to schools to help their alma maters or interested schools in their Green Mark Certification process.

The Back to School Programme Timeline

(Timings may vary based on workload, receptivity of alma mater, intern's productivity and other factors)



**This is an estimated timeline and may differ according to the readiness (i.e. number of recommendations required to be implemented, availability of documents) and condition (i.e. size of school, ease of measurement taking etc.) of the school.*

3.2 How would these students support the school in obtaining the Green Mark Certification?

- Some of the items that students may be able to support include:
 - (a) Consolidate school's building information (i.e. School Floor Plan, Utilities Bills for past 2 years etc) with inputs and assistance from Operations Manager
 - (b) Conduct a health check on school's building system
 - (c) Provide recommendations to improve school wide sustainability awareness and education; or
 - (d) Provide materials for environmental sustainability engagement and education.

3.3 Does this mean that the school's staff do not have to be involved in the Green Mark process?

- The Back to School Programme was developed to ease the workload of staff in attaining the Green Mark target set under PSTLES. Notwithstanding the Back to School's students' participation and assistance, cooperation from school will be required to furnish students with relevant information required for the assessment.
- In general, the key people involved in the programme would include:

a. Operations Manager and Administrative Manager

- Assist in provision of documents listed in the Green Mark Checklist for Schools;
- Orientate the interns around school premises as well to accompany them to restricted areas (e.g. AHU room, Staff Room, roof top, etc.)

b. Teacher-In-Charge of Environmental Education (or equivalent)

- Oversee and provide documents required for Section 3 of the assessment criteria, Sustainable Awareness and Management;
- Student intern from Back to School Programme would be working closely with teacher-in-charge on school's environmental programmes and outreach plans

Let's work together to
inspire the younger
generation in the quest
for a sustainable Singapore.