

# Why environmental sustainability nurtures business sustainability

In most situations, ASI Environmental Sustainability Charter (ESC) fabricators have been able to make sizeable bottom line contributions through their environmental improvement projects directly bolstering their business profitability.

The ASI ESC is a Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) initiative to drive environmental responsible steel fabrication. It comprises steel industry companies committed to the Charter. The GBCA rewards builders using ESC fabricator members with contributions toward their Green Star points.

The ASI requires Charter Members to operate an environmental management system (EMS) designed for small to medium businesses. This system based on BS 8555, allowing the fabricator to quickly focus on improvement projects, but with the necessary infrastructure of a management system to ensure the process is not lost in day-to-day priorities. It is also a web-based system so fabricators can engage with it when they have the time.

During the most recent round of ESC Member audits, substantial financial benefits were recorded as a spin-off of the environmental improvement projects whilst improving the environmental performance of the fabricators.

The EMS improved the capacity of managing and controlling their environmental performance by continuously monitoring their activities, systematically registering and evaluating environmental effects and annually verifying the effectiveness of the whole system (through auditing).

By having the discipline of an EMS, task-activities are performed in a more systematic and efficient way. Rigour is implemented simply by following procedures and instructions with the knowledge of an external audit at the end of the year. This generates the impetus to ensure projects are completed and results achieved.

The range of beneficial sustainability projects undertaken by ESC members encompass:

- Use of solar power
- Better waste management techniques
- Better scrap recycling
- Use of power storage batteries
- Recycling rainwater

- Reducing industrial gas emissions
- Improving lighting efficiency
- Better design efficiency to utilise less materials
- Improving welder efficiency
- Recycling office waste
- Natural factory lighting via clear roofing panels
- Implementing spill kits
- Improving transport efficiency
- Educating upstream and downstream suppliers on environmental efficiencies

“We congratulate the Australian Steel Institute for its ongoing leadership. The ASI Charter has engaged the entire steel supply chain to embrace more environmentally-sustainable business practices,” said GBCA Chief Executive Officer, **Romilly Madew**.

“The Charter has supported downstream manufacturing, fabricating and supply companies that are an integral part of the entire supply chain.”

The ESC program is supported by a biennial national awards program recognising outstanding efforts by Charter Members with the recipients of the latest round announced at the Steel Convention on 19 September.

“The biennial awards, held as part of the Charter’s activities, demonstrate how the sector’s leaders have risen to the best practice challenge,” Madew said.

“The result is better buildings and a stronger supply chain.”

The 2017 Environmental Sustainability Charter Fabricator Award winner is Melbourne-based GFC Industries which has deployed a breadth of energy projects under its comprehensive energy efficiency plan that incorporates an effective data tracking and operations review process that has shown the company has already reduced its energy consumption by 26 percent through a range of measures.

WA-based Civmec Construction & Engineering and Widgee Engineering were both accorded High Commendations.



(L to R) GFC Industries Managing Director, **Ron Kandell** accepts the ESC Fabricator Award from **Greg Albert**, the Managing Director and CEO of award sponsor, Bisalloy Steels.

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