

## Singapore's Mark of Green Development

The growing global concern on sustainable development and environmental conservation has spur momentum for green buildings in recent years. The introduction of the Green Mark scheme was a move by Singapore to bring its building and construction industry towards environmentally caring and balanced development.



BCA Green Mark logo illustration as shown in BCA website

The BCA Green Mark Scheme was launched by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore in January 2005 to promote environmentally friendly buildings and to increase awareness of sustainability among developers, designers and builders.

The Green Mark initiative was realised to a certain extent when it was amended into the Building Code, Code for Environmental Sustainability of Buildings in April this year; requiring compliance to the minimum environmental standards under its rating system.

The Green Mark scheme itself offers a meaningful differentiation of buildings in the real estate market, thereby providing building owners, developers, builders and other market players the possibility to influence their overall image, leasing and resale value of the buildings.

Apart from this, the Green Mark rating system is also designed to evaluate a building on its performance and

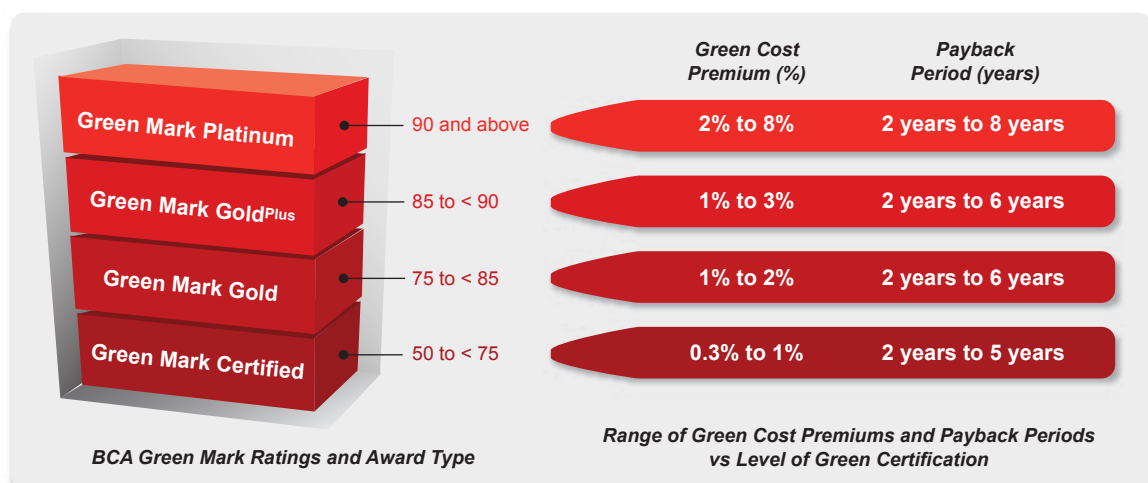
based on a range of criteria, right from the project conceptualisation and design to construction stage. The total points obtained will determined which Green Mark ratings will be awarded: Platinum, GoldPLUS, Gold or Certified.

One of the key criteria used to assess the Green Mark ratings is 'Energy Efficiency'. As an example, the scheme for new buildings requires that the building be sustainable in terms of its energy consumption.

This in turn call for the building envelope to achieve certain thermal performance that will minimise heat gain, thus reducing the cooling load for an air conditioned building. Stone wool is one of the best insulation solutions able to meet the challenging requirements of achieving sustainable energy efficiency.

The challenge in promoting wider acceptance of 'green buildings' to a certain extent has been attributed to the general perception in the high costs of construction. BCA conducted a preliminary study on Green Mark certified buildings to present a case for the cost and payback periods of these buildings.

The findings showed an indicative cost premium ranging from 0.3% to 8% and payback period of 2 years to 8 years. However, the benefits of 'green buildings' such as better indoor environment, energy savings and lower maintenance costs still makes a strong case for the wide adoption of 'green buildings' in Singapore.



**My say:**

The "Green Mark" scheme is an important step towards sustainability for building development; and Roxul is proud to be able to provide the insulation solution that will help realised this initiative.

- Shawn Chan, Technical Sales Support Manager