

TO: Green Globes Users
Third-party Jurisdictional Users

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CC: Green Globes Assessors
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SUBJECT: Transition to Green Globes for New Construction 2021 for Green Globes Multifamily Certification

Explanation of Terminology/Acronyms

Green Globes for New Construction

- **Green Globes NC** - abbreviated version of above
- **Green Globes NC 13** - the second version of Green Globes NC introduced in the United States in 2013
- **Green Globes NC 21** - the updated version of Green Globes NC introduced in 2021.

Green Globes Multifamily for New Construction -or- Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus for New Construction

- **Green Globes Multifamily NC or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus NC** - abbreviated version of above with minimum requirements specific to multifamily properties
- **Green Globes Multifamily NC 13 or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus NC 13** - used by multifamily properties where minimum requirements were achieved using the 2013 version of the NC rating system + the Multifamily or Multifamily Performance Plus specific minimum requirements as the basis for certification
- **Green Globes Multifamily NC 21 or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus NC 21** - made available to multifamily properties this year (2022) where minimum requirements are achieved using new NC 2021 rating system + the specific minimum performance requirements of the Multifamily or Multifamily Performance Plus as the basis for certification

Compliance Direction

If either Green Globes NC 2013 or Green Globes NC 21 are used to certify to Green Globes Multifamily or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus, GBI will verify that the project meets the v2.2 minimum requirements and the certificate issued to the project is evidence of meeting the minimum requirements. For instance, the Green Globes Multifamily NC 21 and Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus NC 21 each have minimum requirements for energy achievements and other criteria. The certificate will explain to building owners (and jurisdictions that request these certificates) which rating system was used (NC 13 or NC 21) and which minimum requirements (v2.2) were achieved.

Background

Green Building Initiative (GBI) formally launched Green Globes for New Construction 2021 (NC 21) in October 2021, which is implementation of a consensus-based ANSI Standard (ANSI/GBI 01-2021: Green Globes Assessment Protocol for Design, New Construction and Major Renovation). Green Globes NC 21 encourages design, construction, and sustainability professionals to assess opportunities for energy savings, to reduce environmental impacts, and lower future maintenance costs. Green Globes NC 21 is both a guide to integrated green building design and construction principles and an assessment tool, providing options when considering implementation of best practices.

Green Globes NC 21 drives innovation in sustainability, promotes a healthy and safe environment for tenants, and encourages life cycle thinking from project conception. This third-party assessment and rating system serves as a comprehensive design guide, used to elevate the sustainability and future operational practices for new construction and major renovation projects.

Green Globes users certifying to Green Globes Multifamily for New Construction or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus for New Construction should use Green Globes NC 21 and meet the following minimum requirements:

Green Globes Multifamily for New Construction:

- Achieve minimum 35% of total applicable points.
- Demonstrate greater than 15% energy consumption savings over respective established baseline (ENERGY STAR® Score of 78 or greater).
- Develop or confirm O&M policy to install ENERGY STAR®-labeled and/or FEMP-designated energy efficient products and appliances when such products and/or appliances are being replaced.
- Confirm local utility or onsite master energy meter(s) provide, at minimum, aggregated whole-project energy consumption data for each energy utility type.
- Commit to entering energy consumption data into ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager to track ongoing performance, and document for future performance.

Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus for New Construction:

- Achieve minimum 35% of total applicable points.
- Demonstrate 20% or greater energy consumption savings over respective established baseline (ENERGY STAR® Score of 82 or greater).
- Develop or confirm O&M policy to install ENERGY STAR®-labeled and/or FEMP-designated energy efficient products and appliances when such products and/or appliances are being replaced.
- Confirm local utility or onsite master energy meter(s) provide, at minimum, aggregated whole-project energy consumption data for each energy utility type.

- Commit to entering energy consumption data into ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager to track ongoing performance, and document for future performance.
- Demonstrate 10% or greater water consumption savings over respective established baseline.
- Install WaterSense-labeled low flow fixtures and fittings where installed and/or supplied. In lieu of the WaterSense label, low flow fixtures and fittings must meet or exceed prescribed more stringent volume ratings.
- Confirm local utility or onsite master water meter(s) provide, at minimum, aggregated whole-project energy consumption data.
- Commit to entering water consumption data into ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager to track ongoing performance, and document for future performance.

Green Globes NC 21 incorporates technological advances, updates to national standards, revised sections on commissioning, product sustainable attributes, alternative non-potable water sources, cooling towers, VOC paints and coatings, and acoustic comfort, and new sections on bird strikes, occupant exposure screening, and leak detection.

Green Globes NC 21 content highlights include:

Green Globes for New Construction	NC 2013	NC 2021
Requirements for Certification		
Achieve minimum 35% of total applicable points out of 1000 possible points.	•	•
Total Possible Points Per Assessment Area		
Project Management	50	100
Site	115	150
Energy	390	260
Water Efficiency	110	190
Materials	125	150
Emissions*	50	N/A
Indoor Environment	160	150
Content Sections & Criteria		
Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO ₂ e) Emissions Path for Energy Performance	•	•

ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010 Path for Energy Performance	•	•
Prescriptive Path for Energy Performance		•
Prescriptive Energy Criteria	•	•
Sustainable/Renewable Energy	•	•
Building Commissioning	•	•
Four paths for Plumbing Fixture & Fitting Standards		•
Resilience, including Risk Assessment		•
Bird Collisions/Strikes	•	•
Whole Building Life Cycle Assessment	•	•
Sustainable Materials Attributes		•
Reuse of Structural Systems & Non-Structural Elements	•	•
Reuse of Materials from Off-Site		•
Acoustical & Thermal Comfort	•	•
Source Control of Indoor Pollutants	•	•

*Emissions criteria are re-distributed throughout all six assessment areas.

Green Globes NC 21 reflects Green Building Initiative’s commitment as an ANSI Standards Developing Organization to using a true consensus process for developing Green Globes.

Beginning immediately, users may certify their multifamily projects with Green Globes Multifamily NC 21 and/or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus NC 21 when they meet the Minimum Requirements.

If either Green Globes NC 2013 or Green Globes NC 2021 are used to certify to Green Globes Multifamily or Green Globes Multifamily Performance Plus, GBI will verify that the project meets the minimum requirements and the certificate issued to the project is evidence of meeting the minimum requirements.

To learn more, please reference the following:

Green Globes for New Construction 2021 - Multifamily Protocol Guidance (v2.2)



Green Globes for New Construction 2021 - Multifamily Performance Plus Protocol Guidance (v2.2)

Please contact the GBI with any questions:

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