

# Stepping ahead

## Launch

Moreland STEPS and the Sustainable Design Scorecard Non-residential are one year old! To celebrate, the Cities of Moreland and Port Phillip will be launching a new and improved version of both tools on **Monday 1 May, 2006**.

Thank you to all users who provided feedback – this has helped improve and refine the tools.



## Important note - Current Assessments

All users of Moreland STEPS and the SDS are advised that their scores may change after 1 May 2006. It is not expected that the targets will become more difficult to reach, but there may be cases where the changes are enough to mean the difference between passing or failing a section. It is expected that in many cases, ratings will improve after 1 May 2006.

Applicants are advised to complete and print their current STEPS and SDS **ratings prior to 1 May** and that these applications will remain valid for a period of three months. Following this three month period, all assessments must be completed with the new tools.

## STEPS Improvements

Users of Moreland STEPS can expect improved usability and functionality from 1 May 2006. Version 2 of STEPS will incorporate several improvements:

- Inclusion of ducted heating and cooling types.
- Updated energy and water data.
- Improved instructions for planning applicants on the 'Report' page.
- More links on the 'Links' page.
- Direct access to the Sustainable Design Scorecard Non-residential from the STEPS site.
- Integration of the latest version of Melbourne Water's STORM tool (v3.0).

- Improved printouts.
- Feedback on the maximum rainwater tank size for a given roof area to help you with better design.
- Improved scoring systems for high density developments with limited water collection capacity.
- Improved bicycle parking recommendations for apartments and multi-unit developments.

## SDS Non-residential Improvements

Users of the Sustainable Design Scorecard Non-residential can expect more specific assessments for different building types. Version 2 of the SDS will incorporate several improvements:

- Introduction of building specific scorecards.
- Improved scoring of water use.
- Integration of the latest version of Melbourne Water's STORM tool (v3.0).
- Updated to reflect upcoming BCA energy efficiency requirements.
- Improved assessment of mixed use buildings.
- Improved assessment of existing buildings.
- Updated 'further information' links.
- More options for innovative ESD strategies.



## Training Successes

Due to the amount of interest in the STEPS and SDS tools, the first training course offered in 2006 was fully booked with a second course quickly filled. Moreland City Council and the City of Port Phillip have now trained over 100 people in the use of these progressive environmental evaluation tools.

The training course is currently run on a monthly basis, at cost, and is offered to anyone interested in sustainable design, including industry representatives and other Council officers.

At the close of the courses held in early 2006, 100 per cent of students said they felt they could confidently use the tools. Additional positive feedback from the students included:

- *"(The tools) make it (ESD) accessible to be used in the design process."*
- *"An excellent course, educational and informative."*
- *"I feel confident to ask applicants to use the tool because of ease of use."*

Further briefing and training session for both tools will be held throughout 2006. For more information visit [www.morelandsteps.com.au](http://www.morelandsteps.com.au).

## Updated Training Packs

For those who have previously attended training sessions, updated versions of the training pack can be sent to you electronically if you have any difficulties with the new features. Email [steps@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:steps@moreland.vic.gov.au) to request a copy. Hard copies are available for \$20, including postage.

## Local Government ESD Forum

On Wednesday 5 April, 14 local government Councils will meet to facilitate discussion on sustainability in the built environment. Outcomes of the meeting and any joint proposals will be summarised in our next newsletter.

## Next Issue

Also in the next edition...first year highlights and case studies galore.

## Email Me More News!

To register to receive STEPS and SDS newsletters via email, write to [steps@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:steps@moreland.vic.gov.au).