

Title	NSW home owners survey input needed to improve green house emission regulation tool
Release date	22 October 2014

NSW home owners are needed to take part in an [online survey](#) as part of a study to improve the current New South Wales (NSW) construction regulation tool used to reduce green house gas emissions in residential buildings. This important tool - The [Building Sustainability Index](#) (BASIX) - provides a guide to long term financial homeowner energy savings and a valuable contribution to the State's sustainable future.

The BASIX tool applies to all residential dwelling types and is part of the NSW development application (DA) process. Over 140,000 NSW dwellings have been built in NSW under BASIX since it was launched in 2004, providing a significant reduction in emissions in that time.

Funded by the [Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living](#) (CRCLCL), the online survey is one component of a [project](#) that will compare the actual energy consumption of dwellings built under BASIX with the theoretical energy consumption levels it predicted. The project is led by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and partners with the City of Sydney, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the Commonwealth Department of Industry.

According to Professor Deo Prasad, CRCLCL CEO the partners will compare real-life data obtained from investigations of new residential buildings post occupancy, to the BASIX modelled results.

"The findings of this study will assist to identify areas for improvement of the BASIX tool. This will inform future sustainability strategies and policy to enable government regulators better understand design options and post-occupancy behaviour," he said.

"This is the opportunity for NSW home owners to take part in a project that will influence policy and planning decisions, that ultimately affect how new residential buildings are constructed."

To carry out the first survey in October the partners have formed a network with over 12 NSW councils in the greater Sydney region; Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby, Parramatta, Randwick, Blacktown, Camden, Liverpool Penrith, Fairfield, Campbelltown, Bankstown and Sutherland. The project will share the collected data for their regions.

Project leader [Dr Lan Ding](#), is a UNSW senior lecturer with 10 years experience across sustainable buildings and cities, building and urban information modelling, and the integration of smart grid with smart buildings and cities. She is calling for all NSW home owners to seize the opportunity to help shape our environmental future and participate in the 10 minute survey.

"If you want to do your part to help create an accurate model to regulate energy use and greenhouse emissions, then this is your chance," she said.

The team is focusing their data collection in the greater Sydney area for homes or apartments dwellings approved during 2005 - 2014, no more than 10 years old. The second stage of the project to begin this summer, will invite 100 of the participants from the first survey to be involved in collecting live data. They will be provided with monitors to collect data on their household's energy consumption, humidity and temperature.

Survey link: <https://www.surveys.unsw.edu.au/f/159434/f6b5/>

About the CRC for Low Carbon Living Ltd

The CRC for Low Carbon Living (CRCLCL) is a national research and innovation hub that supports Australian industry to be globally competitive in the low carbon built environment sector.

It brings together property, planning, engineering and policy organisations with leading Australian researchers. CRCLCL develops new social, technological and policy tools for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment.

A key aim of the CRCLCL is to help cut Australia's residential and commercial carbon emissions by 10 mega tonnes by 2020, which is the environmental equivalent of taking 2.3 million cars off the road each year. This will be achieved through developing low carbon building construction materials and increasing the evidence base for government policy and planning, among other measures. Australia has set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050 compared with 2000 levels.

When the 2020 carbon reduction targets are met, the CRCLCL will have delivered a direct benefit of \$250 million per year to the economy, while reducing risk to the \$150 billion per year construction industry as it adjusts to a carbon-constrained economy.

Ultimately the CRCLCL will help unlock barriers to cost-effective carbon reduction opportunities, empower communities and facilitate the widespread adoption of integrated renewable energy. This will enable the sector to transition and contribute to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions targets while maintaining industry competitiveness and improving quality of life.

It is supported by the Cooperative Research Centres program, an Australian Government initiative.

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