



City of Perth

Sustainability Grants Program





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Summary

The City recognises that investment, as part of an integrated approach to sustainability, is central to enhancing the vitality and liveability of our city. The City's Sustainability Grants Program offers an important opportunity for our unique community to act and create positive change.

In 2017/18 the City of Perth is offering grants for commercial office tenants and building owners to obtain a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) rating to improve the sustainability performance of the City's commercial property sector.

Introduction

The City of Perth is committed to sustainability. With the city's continued growth it is important to ensure the capital city's role as a thriving centre of business, with vibrant cultural and entertainment precincts is maintained, while at the same time, enhancing and protecting the city's natural environment, giving due regard to its value not just locally but regionally and globally.

The City is currently working with the community to create:

- An energy resilient city, that prioritises energy efficiency and clean energy, and is adapted to a low carbon economy;
- A water sensitive city, to sustainably manage and conserve Perth's precious water resources; and

- A climate responsive city, that takes action to plan and adapt to the impact, stress and challenges of increasingly variable and unpredictable weather caused by climate change.

The City is already working with Perth's business sector in a number of ways to reduce the resource intensity of its commercial buildings, address greenhouse gas emissions and improve sustainability performance, including through the CitySwitch and the Waterwise Office Programs. The City now aims to extend this support by offering grants for commercial office tenants and building owners to obtain a NABERS rating to measure and improve the sustainability performance of the City's commercial property sector.

The City's Strategic Community Plan

The Strategic Community Plan is a shared long term vision for Perth created by the City and its community. It sets the priorities for Perth's development.

The City's grants assist the community to share in and support the implementation of the Strategic Community Plan. As such, all grant applications must demonstrate they address one or more themes and associated community outcomes of the Strategic Community Plan. The themes are:

- Getting Around Perth;
- Perth as a Capital City;
- Living in Perth;
- Perth at Night;
- Healthy and Active in Perth; and
- Capable and Responsive Organisation.

Specifically, NABERS grants reflect the Strategic Community Plan themes of Living in Perth and Healthy and Active in Perth:

Living in Perth: The City is a place where a diverse range of people choose to live for a unique sustainable urban lifestyle and access to government and private services.

Healthy and Active in Perth: A city with a well-integrated built and green natural environment in which people and families choose a lifestyle that enhances their physical and mental health, and take part in arts, cultural and local community events.



About NABERS

National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) is a nationally adopted tool enabling property owners, managers and occupants in Australia to understand, improve and communicate the sustainability performance of buildings. NABERS is administered by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

A NABERS rating, measured in half stars from zero to six, reflects the environmental performance of a building or tenancy over the past twelve months. A NABERS rating allows:

- annual sustainability targets to be set;
- progress towards targets to be tracked;
- building performance to be monitored;
- effective upgrades to be planned; and
- a business case to be made.

A NABERS rating publicly demonstrates an organisation or building owner's commitment to sustainability. This can be beneficial as 'Green' buildings have been shown to increase the value of a building and rental yields.

Figure 1 illustrates the NABERS star rating scale from one star to six stars (zero star and half star ratings are also achievable). Ratings are calculated on the performance of a commercial space providing for variables such as location and climate zone. This provides a benchmark to accurately and fairly compare buildings across Australia.

Despite the benefits of NABERS ratings, the cost of undertaking an accredited assessment for a NABERS rating can be a significant barrier to some organisations. The City's grant funding seeks to mitigate or reduce these costs.

NABERS Star Rating Scale



Figure 1. NABERS Star Rating Scale. A green building is regarded as having a rating of four stars and above.

The City's NABERS Grants

The City is offering a number of grants to Perth's businesses and building owners to improve the sustainability performance of the commercial building sector in the city.

Objectives

This grant funding is provided for building assessments performed using NABERS, the accepted Australian industry standard for environmental performance ratings for the built environment.

The City welcomes applications that:

- Request financial assistance for applicants seeking to assess the energy and / or water performance of their facilities under NABERS, in order to improve resource efficiency;
- Promote sustainable practice in the commercial building sector in regard to resource consumption, specifically in regard to energy and water use;
- Increase access to data available on current environmental performance of buildings and facilities within the city using nationally comparable standards; and
- Increase recognition and uptake of credible rating tools that benchmark environmental performance.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the NABERS grant, the applicant must be:

- An Australian legal entity or individual with an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- Under the auspice of an Australian legally constituted association or company.

In addition, the property or tenancy for the proposed NABERS rating must be:

- A signatory or participant in the CitySwitch and / or Waterwise Office Programs;
- Located within the City of Perth local government area;

- Defined under NABERS rules as 'offices';
- Eligible to be assessed for NABERS energy and / or water ratings; and
- Obtaining a NABERS accredited rating from an accredited NABERS assessor for energy and / or water for tenancy or whole building.

The City will not consider applications for the NABERS grant from:

- The Commonwealth, a State or any Government Agency;
- An applicant that has failed to provide satisfactory acquittal reporting for any previous City of Perth funding;
- An applicant that has an outstanding debt to the City of Perth;
- An applicant that has already received support from the City of Perth for this project in the same financial year; and
- An applicant requesting a NABERS rating as a mandatory requirement under the Commercial Building Disclosure Program.

Assessment Process

There are seven steps for applicants to follow. Further information can be found in subsequent sections of this guideline.

Step 1: Contact the Sustainability Unit at the City of Perth to express your interest.

Step 2: Obtain a quote for a NABERS rating from an accredited NABERS assessor (a list of accredited assessors is available on the NABERS website).

Step 3: Submit your application and supporting documents online via Smart Grants at www.smartygrants.com.au.

Step 4: Wait to be contacted by the City of Perth to advise you on the success of your application. Applicants will be advised of the decision in writing within six weeks of submitting an application.

Step 5: If successful, proceed by undertaking a NABERS assessment.

Step 6: Following lodgment of your NABERS assessment with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, complete the City of Perth acquittal form attaching a copy of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage lodgment receipt and an invoice to the City of Perth for the grant funds.

Step 7: Receive payment from the City of Perth.

Approval for NABERS Grants will be determined by the City of Perth's Chief Executive Officer as detailed in the City's Delegated Authority Register. All determinations will be final.

Assessment Criteria

Successful applications will be those that best satisfy the below assessment criteria. The City reserves the right to request further information in considering any application, as well as the right to reject any application that does not meet the criteria.

All NABERS grant applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevant themes in the Strategic Community Plan are addressed;
- The applicant's ability to achieve a NABERS rating for energy and / or water;
- The applicant's demonstrated commitment to sustainability pertaining to the tenancy or property which the NABERS grant will be applied to; and
- A demonstrated commitment to communicate the NABERS rating within their organisation, to CitySwitch / Waterwise Office Program and to the City of Perth.

Documentation Required

Application form (see How to Apply), addressing:

- Assessment criteria;
- Commitment of applicant to the CitySwitch and/or Waterwise Office Program;
- Commitment of the applicant to improve resource efficiency in the building /tenancy based on the finding of the NABERS rating;
- Details of past NABERS ratings if NABERS accreditation has previously been obtained; and
- Quotation outlining scope of works from an accredited NABERS assessor.

Funding Limits

The value of this grant is 50% of the cost of the NABERS assessment up to a maximum value of \$1,000 (excluding GST).

NABERS grants are available from 1 July 2017 until all funds have been exhausted.

Closing Dates

The City provides ongoing opportunities to apply for the NABERS grant throughout the year. Applications are reviewed as received and will be allocated until funds are exhausted for the relevant financial year.

Assistance Available

It is recommended that applicants contact the City of Perth Sustainability Unit prior to completing the NABERS grant application.

Information for Successful Applicants

Payment of Funds

Grant payments shall be made after the submission of an invoice from the applicant to the City of Perth, post certification of completed works. Funds are not provided in advance. Certification of completed work includes:

- An invoice from an accredited NABERS assessor to the applicant, certifying works have been completed and the total costs of the NABERS rating; and
- A receipt from the NSW Office of Energy and Heritage generated when a NABERS assessment has been lodged.

Other Funding

CitySwitch signatories are also eligible for the Office of Environment & Heritage Administration Fee Discount Voucher. For further information on this discount, please contact the CitySwitch Program Manager at the City of Perth:

Phill Raso

CitySwitch Program Manager
(08) 9461 3131
phill.raso@cityofperth.wa.gov.au

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find support material?

Please refer to the following documents:

- Strategic Community Plan Vision 2029+; and
- City of Perth Environment Strategy.
www.perth.wa.gov.au/planning-development/environment-and-sustainability/sustainability-city

How many times may I apply?

Applicants can only apply for a grant once per financial year.

What constitutes as a commitment to sustainability?

Examples of your organisation's commitment could include:

- A sustainability action plan;
- Evidence of engagement with building occupants on sustainability;
- Corporate values around sustainability;
- Policy and strategy documents that address sustainability;
- Recent activities focussed on improving sustainability; and
- Engagement with community/clients/customers/stakeholders on sustainability.

How long does it take to obtain a NABERS rating after approval?

Five to six weeks should be allocated for an accredited NABERS assessor to complete a NABERS assessment. This timeframe may vary however depending on the availability of an assessor; the availability of building data; and processing times by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. These timeframes are beyond the control of the City of Perth.

Why is the grant funding provided after the completion of the assessment rather than before?

In some cases NABERS assessments cannot be completed due to unavailable or missing data. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all data is available at the time a quote is obtained. Funding can only be provided for completed NABERS assessments.

Additional Information for Sustainability Grants

How to Apply?

All applications must be submitted electronically via the City's online management system SmartyGrants. Applications not received through SmartyGrants will be deemed ineligible for funding.

Go to perth.smartygrants.com.au to register an account and complete your application.

Agreements

Successful applicants will be sent a Letter of Agreement formalising the details of the Grant.

Disability Access and Inclusion

The City of Perth is committed to providing equitable and dignified access in relation to buildings, services and facilities for people with disabilities. The City of Perth Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) complies with legislative requirements. It is mandatory for all grants projects to comply with access and inclusion requirements in accordance with the City's DAIP plan which is available on the City of Perth website.

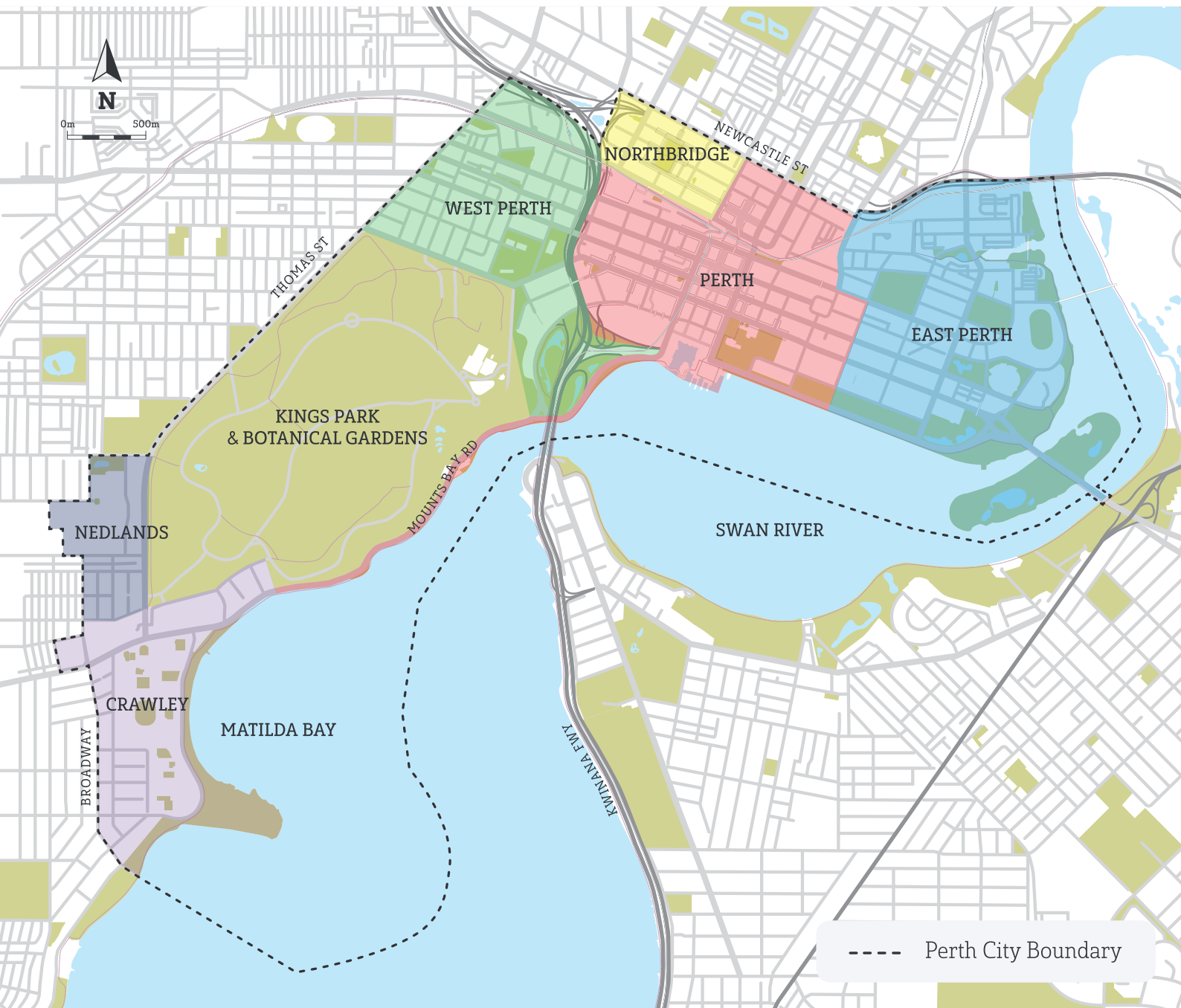
Sustainability

The City of Perth is committed to sustainability. With the city's continued growth it is important to ensure the capital city's role as a thriving centre of business, with vibrant cultural and entertainment precincts is maintained. At the same time, the city's natural environment should be enhanced and protected, giving due regard to its value not just locally but regionally and globally. All grant applications must take into account environmental, social and economic impacts to the City.

Lobbying

Applicants (or any agent) are not permitted to canvass Elected Members of the City of Perth, or attempt to provide additional information, either directly or indirectly, on any matter relating to the grant prior to the determination of the grant by the Council or Committee. In the event of canvassing an Elected Member, the person/organisation may be disqualified and the grant application excluded from consideration.

In the event supplementary information is requested via an Elected Member, please contact your Grant Officer to discuss the appropriate mechanism to disseminate information.



City of Perth Boundary Map

All office spaces being accredited using the City's NABERS grants must be located within the City of Perth.

Contact Us

For all enquiries regarding Sustainability Grants please contact the Sustainability Unit at the City of Perth.

Phone: (08) 9461 3136

Email: sustainability@cityofperth.wa.gov.au