



Media Release: Energy Efficiency Certification Scheme open for applications

Date: 8 April 2015

The Energy Efficiency Council today announced that the next round of applications for the Energy Efficiency Certification Scheme will open on 27 April 2015.

Australia's only professional certification for individuals that lead and manage comprehensive energy retrofits of commercial buildings, the Scheme gives building owners and managers a reliable way to determine whether a project leader has the knowledge and skills required to manage a complex energy upgrade.

Luke Menzel, Acting CEO of the Energy Efficiency Council which delivers the Scheme, said *"A successful integrated energy retrofit delivers a host of benefits to building owners including lower operating costs, higher return on investment and rental income, lower tenant churn, increased capital value and enhancing corporate image and investment potential."*

He added *"These are complex projects with a diverse range of considerations. The ultimate success of an energy upgrade depends on choosing an expert provider. By choosing a provider who has been certified under the Scheme, building owners and managers can have complete confidence that their supplier holds the specialised knowledge, relevant skills and professional experience to maximise the outcomes of their project."*

The Energy Efficiency Certification Scheme offers two levels of certification. The 'Certified Energy Efficiency Specialist' designation is available to individuals who have experience working as part of project teams that implement energy efficiency retrofits of commercial buildings, while recognition as a 'Certified Energy Efficiency Leader' is available to seasoned energy efficiency professionals that have extensive knowledge and experience, including direct experience leading all stages of an integrated building energy retrofit.

The next round of certifications aims to double the number of certified professionals operating in the Australian marketplace by the end of 2015.

Subsidies for NSW candidates

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has recognised the critical role certified professionals can play in driving major energy savings in commercial buildings and government facilities. Accreditation under the Energy Efficiency Certification Scheme is a requirement of the NSW Energy Performance Contracting Services panel and OEH is partnering with the EEC to boost the number of certified professionals in NSW. OEH is providing assessment subsidies of \$550 to eligible NSW candidates as part of its drive to increase energy efficiency across the State.

OEH Director Metropolitan Branch Tom Grosskopf said, *"A certified professional can help make it easy for any building owner or manager to embark on an energy upgrade. They can*

help develop the business case, as well as manage the project from start to finish. This deep collaboration is vital for NSW to meet its energy efficiency targets.”

Luke Menzel added “The Energy Efficiency Council is proud to work in partnership with OEH on the Scheme. New South Wales has demonstrated visionary leadership in energy efficiency in Australia and this partnership will enable more high quality providers to support building owners in improving efficiency, boosting productivity and reducing their costs well into the future.

Pre-registration for potential candidates

Energy efficiency professionals who are interested in applying for certification can pre-register for the next round of the Scheme at www.energycertification.org.au/applying-for-certification/register-for-certification or contact Karla Paeglis at the Energy Efficiency Council on 03 8327 8423 or at karla.paeglis@eec.org.au.

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Notes to editors:

- The Energy Efficiency Council is Australia’s peak body for energy efficiency, cogeneration and demand management
- Energy efficiency delivers major economic benefits and is the largest, most cost-effective and technologically mature source of emission abatement. Realising this potential requires high-tech products and specialists to identify and implement energy efficiency upgrades.
- The Council was formed in 2009 to give a voice to the energy efficiency and cogeneration industry and bring providers and clients together to develop products that meet client needs, growing the market for energy efficiency services.
- The Council carries out the following activities:
 - Bringing together energy efficiency and cogeneration providers’ and clients’ expertise to inform the development of robust and cost-effective energy efficiency policies and programs in Australia. Council members have extensive experience in the commercial and technical realities of energy efficiency.
 - Working with providers and clients to improve the quality, delivery and uptake of energy efficiency services and products. This includes training programs, accreditation and standards for contacts and services that meet the needs of providers and clients.
 - Building the awareness and uptake of energy efficiency services.