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THE MERCURY network

KZN'S PREMIER BUSINESS PUBLICATION

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Green project puts Cato Manor streets ahead

Suren Naidoo

DURBAN'S historic township of Cato Manor is set to get what's being touted as the first "green street" in South Africa with all houses retrofitted with green building technologies such as solar water geysers and rainwater collection containers.

The plan was announced by Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) CEO Brian Wilkinson at the GBCSA Conference and Exhibition in Cape Town last week.

He said the landmark project was being undertaken by the council together with the World Green Building Council as part of their participation in the UN COP17 climate change summit in Durban from November 28.

"Both councils are working together to have a presence at COP17 through exhibitions at the business pavilion and our government's green technology pavilion. However, we've embarked on the green street retrofit in Cato Manor as part of creating higher visibility and a legacy project beyond COP17.

"This will be the first green street retrofit in South Africa... The British High Commission in South Africa is backing the project financially, but we are looking for further support from the property industry and business in general."

Wilkinson said GBCSA had secured support for the project from the eThekweni Municipality and the councillor in Cato Manor.

"We are not just putting solar water geysers in the houses. It's a much broader project that includes rainwater collection containers connected to the roofs of the

houses, as well insulating roofs to regulate temperatures in the homes to be cooler in summer and warmer in winter," he said.

Sarah Rushmere, a sustainable development consultant working on the project for the GBCSA, said the municipality would put in energy-saving LED lighting for the street as part of the project.

"We are looking at as many sustainable innovations as possible ... even having indigenous plants, planting fruit trees and establishing food gardens," she said.

"The eThekweni Municipality is forward-thinking and progressive and we hope to extend this project depending on the kind of support we get. We are looking at 30 houses that will be part of this initiative, but depending on support this initial phase could be increased in size. We appeal to local business to come on board and support the GBCSA in the great project," Rushmere said.

Wilkinson also told the GBCSA Conference the council had now awarded 12 Green Star SA ratings to new green building developments in South Africa. The buildings embrace energy- and water-saving technologies and design.

"The green building movement in South Africa is gaining momentum and the GBCSA is leading the effort. The council is only four years old, but it's really exciting to have moved into double digits in terms of the number of buildings that we have awarded Green Star SA ratings. We have another 30 or so that have applied to be rated."

Durban has the second-highest number of Green Star SA rated buildings in South Africa after Gauteng. All three buildings that



The Nedbank Ridgeside Office Development in Umhlanga, which boasts a 4 Star Green Star SA – Office Design v1 rating from the Green Building Council of SA. PICTURE: PETER HASSALL



The 24 Richefond Circle Building in Umhlanga, which is home to Shepstone & Wylie Attorneys, is the first building in Durban to get both the 4 Star Green Star SA – Office Design v1 and 4 Star Green Star SA – Office As-Built v1 rating by the Green Building Council of SA. PICTURE: JACQUES NAUDE



The Lincoln on Lake building in Umhlanga Ridge, which is home to Growthpoint Properties' Durban headquarters, is expected to secure its Green Star SA rating soon. PICTURE: SUPPLIED

have secured the rating are in the burgeoning Umhlanga Ridge area near Gateway.

The Nedbank Ridgeside Office Development was the first in KZN to get the rating and the second in South Africa. It secured a 4 Star Green Star SA – Office Design v1

rating and is awaiting its "as-built" rating.

The 24 Richefond Circle Building, home to Shepstone & Wylie Attorneys, is the first building in Durban to get both the 4 Star Green Star SA – Office Design v1 and 4 Star Green Star SA – Office As-

Built v1 rating from the GBCSA. The latest building to get a 4 Star Green Star SA – Office Design v1 rating in Durban is the Mayfair development that adjoins the Lincoln on Lake building in Umhlanga Ridge. Lincoln on Lake expects its Green Star SA rating soon.

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