

## SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN MADE EASY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2020



### **BriefEzy UPDATE - SEPT 2020**

Since SECCCA developed the ESD Matrix in 2018 much has happened, including a name change and branding from the 'ESD Matrix' to 'BriefEzy'. This update looks at how BriefEzy is currently being used by member councils, the additional work completed by SECCCA to further ESD in council buildings through policy, and future opportunities.

### **MEMBER BriefEzy UPDATES**

SECCCA recently checked in with each council to see how BriefEzy was working for them and how the tool could be improved.

There is strong uptake of BriefEzy. Some councils are using BriefEzy in all new builds, major and minor refurbishments, renovations and extensions of toilet blocks, pavilions, youth centres, community centres, children's centres etc.

Other councils are using the BriefEzy mostly for sporting pavilions and community centres.

Some of the reported benefits include that BriefEzy is simple and easy to use and that it enables consideration of new elements and better design outcomes.

BriefEzy is easy to understand and enables replicability to ensure consistent outcomes and is affordable. Some of the barriers to implementation included perception of the benefits of the tool, resourcing to use the tool, consultant adaptability and competing priorities of other building design requirements.

This feedback will provide valuable insights into further developing the tool in the future and training.

To date 5 councils have included BriefEzy (or referenced as the 'ESD Matrix') in their ESD Buildings Policy and two are in the process of considering it.

### **ESD POLICY TEMPLATE AND GUIDELINES**

SECCCA's guide for councils who are in the process of developing or reviewing their buildings / facilities ESD Policy provides the essential requirements for an effective ESD Policy and details 'common practice' from a range of Victorian council examples.

13 council ESD policies were reviewed to develop the guide and these were used as the basis to develop the generic template document. A brief literature review was also undertaken on what is considered 'best practice' from international research.

As part of the ESD Policy Template Project, SECCCA met with each member council to discuss and document their current policy and the draft ESD Policy template. The aim of the meetings was to gain an insight into how ESD was being implemented in buildings in each council, how BriefEzy was being used and how the template could be improved.

As a result of these meetings the following provides a summary of the recommendations and opportunities to provide further support to SECCCA councils.

1. Collate and continue to develop case studies.
2. Develop a standards/targets comparisons table between councils.
3. Collate and continue to develop a Product Specifications/procurement document.
4. Develop a building construction, commissioning and operations evaluation framework.
5. Develop and deliver professional development training opportunities within council.
6. Create a database of building energy use across SECCCA member councils by square metre to measure performance and benchmark improvements.
7. Shared staff resource to assist member councils in delivering, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on ESD within councils.

## NEXT STEPS

The last couple of years working to improve ESD in member council buildings has shown that it can be challenging.

BriefEzy has provided a way to provide consistency across building projects and learn from other council experiences. There is still much to improve and barriers to address however the relevance of the tool and the opportunities identified around the specification of ESD to support uptake is clear.

SECCCA will continue to advance BriefEzy and look to other opportunities to support councils in this critical area of reducing council building carbon emissions.



## COMMENTS ON BriefEzy FROM SECCCA MEMBERS

“ Good level of detail for detailed design, clear standards that are easy to implement ”

“ The tool is easy to use and modify ”

“ Our Environmental Sustainable Team is now more involved in the early stages of building projects ”

“ Very quick, simple and easy to use. ”

“ Getting better design outcomes – solar PV is standard on our new builds now for example. ”

“ Good for high use facilities ”