

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore's Green Homes on the Rise

More than 19,000 green homes with potential utility savings of at least \$1,000 per household per year

GREEN homes are on the rise in Singapore after the BCA Green Mark was introduced to certify green buildings in 2005.

2. “As a result of more developers embracing environmental sustainability as part of their corporate social responsibility and appreciating the fact that green buildings give buyers and residents good utility savings year after year, we are seeing the number of green buildings rising exponentially. Just the past year alone, there were about 100 buildings certified under the BCA Green Mark, an increase from 17 per year during the last two, three years,” commented Dr John Keung, CEO of the Building and Construction Authority.

3. Out of all these green buildings, more than 60 are residential developments in the making and a few are already completed and occupied by residents. These make up to more than 19,000 homes with green features within the dwelling unit and at common areas.

4. The most common green features found within the dwelling units are energy efficient air-conditioners (certified with 4-ticks under the Singapore Energy Labelling Scheme); and water fittings such as flushing cistern, basin taps designed with water efficient fittings (certified under PUB's water efficiency).

5. These are also the features that lead to savings in utility bills. BCA did a study on the potential savings that a household can enjoy. “Based on a sample of recent BCA Green Mark private residential projects with air-con usage of 8 hours a day, we found that there could be a potential utility savings of more than \$1,000 per household per year,” said Mr Jeffery Neng, BCA's Deputy Director of the Green Mark Department.

6. Besides educating the industry, BCA has also recently embarked on a public education campaign to raise awareness on green living and its benefits. The latest outdoor campaign, which could be seen on MRT trains and buses, aims to heighten that awareness and garner support from homeowners to demand for green homes. Ultimately, green homes should be everyone's aspiration as they are more environmentally friendly and give residents substantial monetary savings in utility and health benefits with an improved indoor environment. As energy costs are on the rise, it makes even more economic sense to consider green homes, which would lower utility costs in the long run.

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 21 May 2008