BASIX

Each year, you use (on average):

- enough energy to fill your home with CO_2 pollution three times over;

- more water than two average backyard swimming pools.

What is BASIX and how does it work?

1 Introduced by the NSW Government, BASIX ensures homes are built to be more energy and water efficient.

BASIX is on-line program that assesses a house or unit design, and compares it against energy and water reduction targets. The design must meet these targets before a BASIX Certificate can be printed.

Every development application for a new home must be submitted to Council with a BASIX Certificate.

BASIX uses information such as site location, house size, type of building materials and fittings for hot water, cooling and heating.
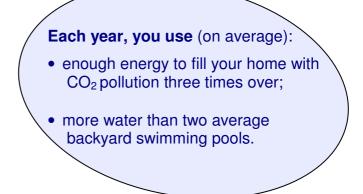
It is important to realise that the commitments made during the BASIX process are shown on the final certificate and must be marked on the plans, and adhered to during the building process.

Any changes made to the house design means another BASIX assessment must be completed and a new BASIX Certificate submitted to Council.

Who should complete a BASIX assessment?

2 The BASIX tool is simple to use, and the assessment can be done either by yourself or your building designer. This is best done early on in the design phase, and usually takes about an hour to complete.

If your building designer completes the assessment for you, make sure they discuss the BASIX commitments with you first. Remember, BASIX if flexible. If you don't like one option, there will be an alternative – ring the Help Line if you get stuck.

What are the Energy and Water targets?

3 BASIX is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach: it incorporates regional variations such as soil type, climate, rainfall and evaporation rates.

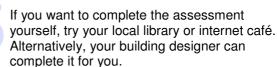The Energy target varies according to building type and location.

The Water target varies between 0 and 40%, according to location. Read the *About the BASIX Water Target* fact sheet for more information.

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Where can I get more help?

4 The BASIX website has a range of resources:

- Download the data input checklist – this takes you through the BASIX assessment step-by-step, and shows you all the information will you need;
- Read the Help Notes – this is a searchable index, that provides information relating to all the questions asked by BASIX;
- Complete the Tutorial – this shows you exactly how BASIX works, and prepares you for the process.

What if I don't have access to the Internet?

5 If you want to complete the assessment yourself, try your local library or internet café. Alternatively, your building designer can complete it for you.

Key Points about BASIX

BASIX sets one environmental standard across all NSW Council areas.

BASIX is one of the strongest sustainable planning measures to be taken in Australia, delivering equitable and effective water and greenhouse gas reductions across the state.

BASIX means no new home built in NSW will use more water than the current state average.

BASIX is free, flexible and easy to use, allowing homebuilders to determine how they will meet targets from a wide range of options.

BASIX sets clear sustainable housing targets.

BASIX provides much greater market certainty for sustainable industries, such as manufacturers of solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks, insulation, performance glass and stormwater systems.

BASIX provides new home owners with better quality homes that are more suited to their environment and less expensive to run.

BASIX is subject to ongoing monitoring: since implementation, the Department has conducted a monitoring program of 100 BASIX-compliant home designs that are now in the development approval and construction process. Items to note:

- Every home has a rainwater tank, the average size being 4,000 litres and the majority of which will be plumbed to the toilet and laundry, as well as providing water for the garden;

- 1 in 4 of these homes will have a solar hot water or heat pump system;

- Over 30% of the homes have included performance glass and double glazing;

- All homes are opting for efficient shower heads and tap fixtures, reducing water use and costs;

- Eaves, shading, insulation and other simple design features are making a welcome comeback.

BASIX assistance is available on the Help Line on 1300 650 908 plus Help Notes and easy-to-use tutorials on the BASIX website, www.basix.nsw.gov.au.

Examples of sustainable housing features:

- rainwater tanks, plumbed to toilet, garden and/or laundry;
- efficient (3A-5A) showerheads, toilets, tap fittings,
- use of indigenous garden species,
- grey water system where appropriate,
- solar, heat pump or high efficiency gas hot water systems
- efficient pool heating and pumps
- good solar orientation
- cross ventilation
- insulation
- external shading
- performance glazing for large glazed areas and/or poorly oriented areas
- ceiling fans, evaporative coolers or high efficiency air conditioning
- energy efficient lighting
- alternative energy systems such as photovoltaics.

BASIX Contacts

T: 1300 650 908

W: www.basix.nsw.gov.au

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