

Pick n Pay Clothing lands milestone green building accolade

Pick n Pay Clothing has become the first clothing retailer to be recognised by the Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) for its sustainable approach to refurbishing its growing store network.



Hazel Pillay, general manager for Pick n Pay Clothing, with GBCSA certification. Source: Supplied

The Pick n Pay Clothing store in Blue Route Mall, Cape Town, has been awarded a 4 Star Green Star Interiors v1 rating, an industry best practice in evaluating sustainability performance.

The Blue Route Mall store revamp was completed in 2021 and was a pilot to test a new sustainable design for the clothing retailer's stores. The features and sustainable practices used in this rebuild – and those awarded by GBCSA – have now been extended to 65 new and existing stores, which will soon also gain accreditation.

“This is the new blueprint for all our Clothing stores moving forward,” says Pillay. “We aim to reach 5 Star Green Star performance levels very soon as we have already made significant improvements and found smarter, more environmentally-friendly ways of designing our new and existing stores,” said Hazel Pillay, general manager for Pick n Pay Clothing.

Pick n Pay Clothing is expected to open over 60 new stores in the next 12 months, adding to its standalone store network of over 330 stores.



Hazel Pillay with Georgina Smit, head of technical at GBCSA. Source: Supplied

Interior design and operational efficiency

Customers visiting the newly revamped Pick n Pay Clothing stores will instantly notice the new 'Green is our New Favourite Colour' design. But the GBCSA recognition extends beyond decorative features like floor-to-ceiling plant walls and informative posters. Pick n Pay Clothing's new design principle has fully incorporated environmentally friendly materials, the retailer said.

The store interior has been completely redesigned to meet global green building standards. In the construction, most fixtures are from recycled materials, and 90% of the project contract value is represented by materials and products manufactured locally. Operationally, the stores have new lighting and energy-efficient technology to minimise energy consumption.

Various measures have also been implemented to reduce electricity consumption, such as installing Building Energy Management Systems, which has already seen the store reduce its usage by nearly 10% in five months.

Eighty percent of stores have also been fitted with Lithium battery solutions as a more sustainable option during load shedding. By the end of April, 100% of stores will be fitted with Lithium batteries.

"Being 'green' is no longer a buzzword to attract emerging customers who care more about sustainability than past generations. It has become a necessity for local businesses as the country continues to face rolling blackouts. As we

increase our store footprint, making sustainable changes has a material impact on our bottom line while also meeting customers' needs on wanting to buy clothing from a responsible fashion retailer," said Pillay.



PnP Clothing unveils new-look store, its biggest and greenest yet

Lauren Hartzenberg 21 Oct 2022



First for SA

Georgina Smit, head of technical at the GBCSA, congratulated Pick n Pay on its sustainable refurbishment project. "This is an excellent achievement. We are proud of Pick n Pay Clothing for committing to sustainability in a way that can be verified, quantified and comparatively assessed. As a clothing retailer, this is a first for South Africa, and we hope it unlocks the potential to raise greater awareness about green buildings with consumers."

GBCSA has driven measurable climate change mitigation in the South African property sector through its various certifications since its inception. In the past 15 years, through 905 certifications, the buildings have collectively saved 1,590 million kgCO₂/annum, this equates to 395,400 cars off the roads every year in terms of kgCO₂ equivalent.

Lisa Reynolds, CEO of GBCSA, commented, "We are seeing exponential growth in the adoption of more sustainable building practices. As the environmental and financial benefits of green building became more apparent, we see a greater buy-in across the board and the industry as a whole has shifted."

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>