




EQUATOR – THE BELT FACTORY

Equator Accessories, 8 Pine Industrial Park, 16 Pineside Road, New Germany. Kwa-Zulu Natal
5 Star Green Star – Existing Building Performance Industrial v1




AFRICA
South Africa

Existing Building Performance Industrial v1

★★★★★

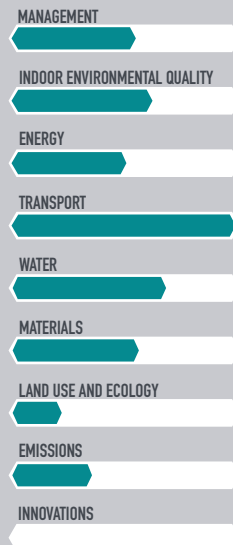
5 Star Rating
South African Excellence
VALIDITY: 2024-05 - 2027-05



TOTAL POINTS:

63

CATEGORY SCORES:



FLOOR AREAS:

TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (GFA):	4 555m ²
TOTAL COMMERCIAL OFFICE AREA:	716m ²
CAR PARKING AREA:	n/a

Equator is a leather belt manufacturer for the fashion, retail and wholesale trade globally. In 2018 the factory had outgrown its old building and moved to the 4 500 m2 facility in Pinetown, Durban. Upon moving to a larger facility, Equator decided to pursue a sustainability journey. The building was retrofitted to meet Equator's needs as well as adhere to best practice green building initiatives and interventions. Equator strives to carefully balance the needs of the environment, its retail partners, customers and their own people and apply technology and the latest design & trend thinking to their processes. In 2023 the building sought to recertify its Green Star Certification through the new EBP Industrial Pilot Tool.

Sustainable building features include:

Equator's factory and head office was renovated in 2018 to operate as an efficient and sustainable building to serve its employees as well as allow the business to continue growing. In 2023 additional renovations were done at the facility to expand the growing business.

Employees first:

- Optimised working conditions.
- Improved air quality – low or zero VOC paints, adhesives and flooring materials were carefully selected and insulation was responsibly procured to be zero ODP.
- Employee engagement and wellness – educational signage relating to the building's green interventions and goals as well as a green team who are responsible for leading the operational green initiatives amongst colleagues.

Water efficiency:

- Smart metering and leak detection.
- Water-efficient tap fittings which are 75% more efficient than standard taps.
- Low-flow toilets.

- Rainwater harvesting – In late 2023 Equator doubled their rainwater tank storage from 40 000 L to 80 000 L. These rainwater tanks collect and store rainwater from the factory roof. In the rainy months, over 90% of the factory's water demand is supplied by the rainwater capture and storage system on-site.

Energy efficiency:

- Smart metering.
- Hyper-efficient cooling. The facility makes use of cutting-edge, energy-saving air-conditioning systems to ensure that the cooling of selected spaces is as efficient as possible whilst also letting in fresh air.
- LED and lighting control. The facility is 100% fitted with LED lights and lighting controls such as motion sensors and day-night switches.
- High-performance glazed windows. Double-glazed windows have been installed in select locations to increase building insulation and reduce the loss of heat or conditioned air. It also assists in blocking out noise.
- Efficient equipment and appliances, equipment run-time schedules, and automatic door closures.

Waste Management:

- On-site waste separation for recycling.
- Bokashi composting on-site.
- E-waste collection and removal.
- Material off-cuts in excess post-production are donated to local traders for repurposing.
- Weekly community market on-site where overproduction stock is sold.
- Waste education through educational posters and staff training.

Ethical sourcing:

- Office furniture and finishes were responsibly selected and procured to be made of sustainably sourced wood products, low VOC paints and adhesives, and other locally sourced materials.
- Green cleaning products and practices.

Awareness Programmes:

- Sustainable physical displays are featured throughout the facility.
- Sustainability awareness programmes in the form of workshops and shared learning sessions are held at least quarterly to educate both employees and delegates from various companies in the clothing and textile sector.

PROJECT TEAM:

OWNER
Equator – The Belt Factory

ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL
Ecolution Consulting

RECYCLING CONTRACTOR
Wowie Recycling