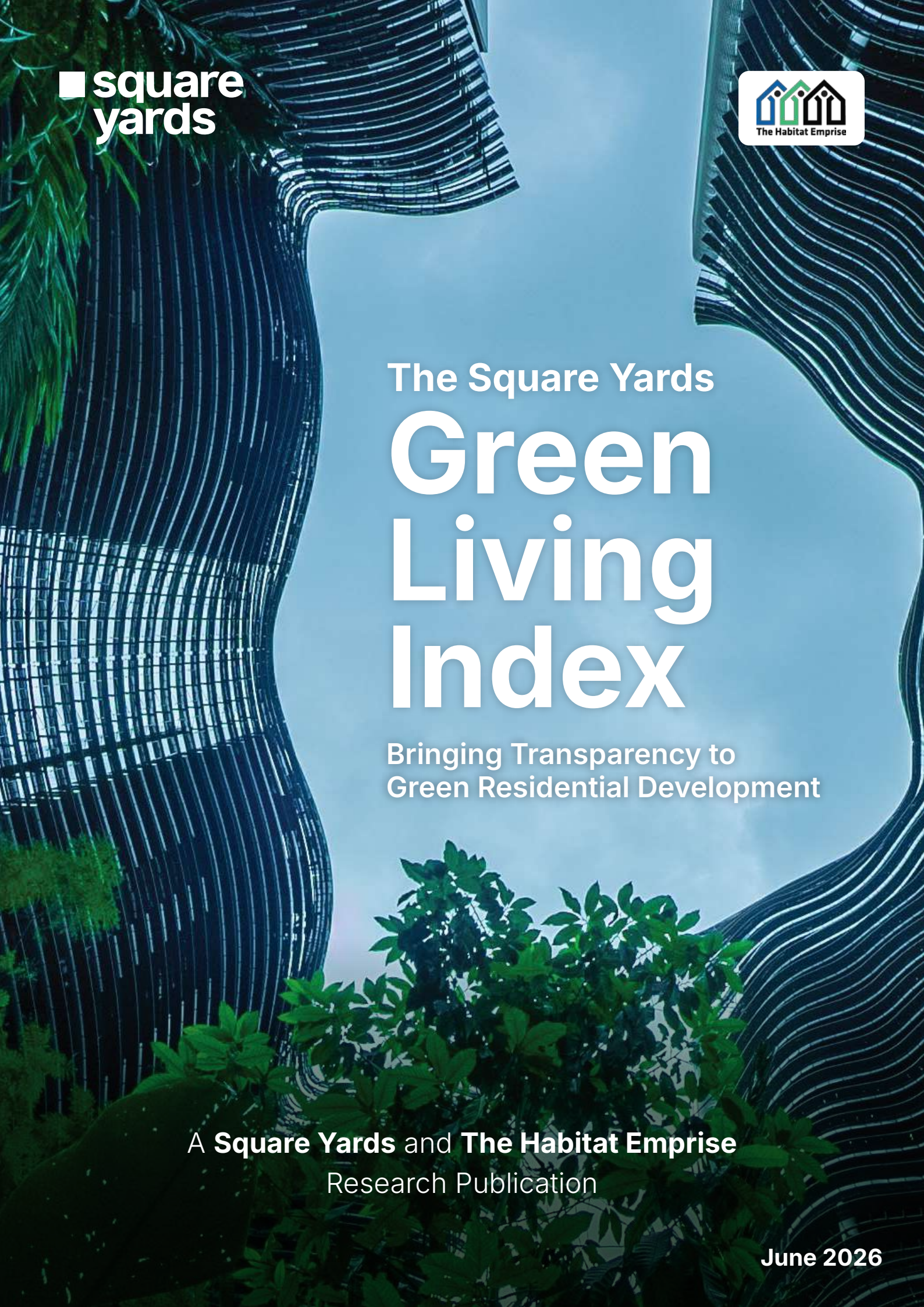


square yards

The Habitat Emprise

## The Square Yards

# Green Living Index

### Bringing Transparency to Green Residential Development

A **Square Yards** and **The Habitat Emprise**
Research Publication

**June 2026**

# Table of Contents

# Foreword & Preface

India is entering a major phase of urban growth. By 2050, nearly 400 million more people are expected to live in cities, creating new challenges around housing, energy, water, public health, and infrastructure. Housing will play a critical role in this transformation, not just as a place to live, but as an essential part of building sustainable and resilient cities.

The homeownership journey extends well beyond the purchase of a property. From financing and interiors to ongoing home services, homeowners increasingly seek solutions that improve affordability, comfort, and quality of life over the long term. As housing markets evolve, growing attention is being paid to how homes perform on dimensions such as energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, and climate resilience.

India is already one of the world's largest green building markets, with over 15.9 billion square feet of green-certified building space. However, for most homebuyers, it remains difficult to evaluate how sustainable a residential project truly is. Information about energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor comfort, and environmental impact is often unclear or unavailable during the buying process.

This creates what may be described as the Green Housing Paradox. Homebuyers care about lower utility bills, better indoor comfort, climate resilience, and healthier living environments, yet they often lack a simple and reliable way to compare these features across projects. As a result, developers who invest in meaningful sustainability initiatives can struggle to differentiate themselves from projects that make broad environmental claims.

**Tanuj Shori**
Founder and CEO
Square Yards

**"The future of Indian housing will be defined not only by location and amenities, but by how intelligently homes respond to climate challenges, resource efficiency, and long-term affordability. Sustainability must become visible, measurable, and actionable for every homebuyer."**

**Kanika Gupta Shori**
Founder and COO
Square Yards

**"Homebuyers today are asking more sophisticated questions than ever before. They want homes that are healthier, more efficient, and future-ready. Our goal is to provide reliable information that empowers consumers while encouraging the industry to raise standards across residential development."**

To bridge this gap, **Square Yards partnered with The Habitat Emprise to create the Square Yards Green Living Index.** The Index combines market data, sustainability expertise, technology, and research to provide a simple, transparent framework that helps homebuyers assess and compare the environmental performance of residential projects.

Using public records, RERA filings, developer disclosures, geospatial data, and advanced analytics, the Index offers a credible and measurable approach to evaluating sustainability and liveability in residential developments.

The need for such a framework is becoming increasingly urgent. Across major Indian cities, including Gurgaon, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, and Hyderabad, rising temperatures, water shortages, and extreme weather events are already affecting everyday life. These challenges impact household expenses, infrastructure reliability, and overall quality of life.

**Dr. Priyanka Kochhar**
CEO and Co-Founder
The Habitat Emprise

**"One trend has become increasingly clear: while sustainability is now a major focus in commercial real estate, residential homebuyers often struggle to understand and compare the environmental performance of homes."**

The Square Yards Green Living Index is built on the belief that the homes of the future will be valued not only for their location and amenities but also for their sustainability, efficiency, and resilience. Homes that perform well environmentally will help protect both household finances and the long-term health of our cities. This white paper is both a research initiative and a call to action. We invite developers, policymakers, financial institutions, urban planners, and homebuyers to join us in creating a more transparent, sustainable, and future-ready housing market for India. We hope the framework presented in this report contributes meaningfully to that shared goal.

square yards

# India's green push and its challenges

## CLIMATE DEADLINES

**2030** — Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 45% (from 2005 level)

**2070** — Net-zero target (India's national target, announced at COP26, 2021)

**2100** — 30x increase in severe heatwaves

## By 2070

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.1 billion** People living in India's urban areas | **2x** Increase in urban residential building stock | **444 million** Energy-using households by 2070 |

## Green vs conventional buildings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **3.5–4%** Additional cost of green housing | **30–50%** Lower water consumption | **20–30%** Lower energy costs |

## Scale of the problem

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **3rd** India's position in global CO2 emissions | **1/3rd** Construction sector's share of GHG emissions | **935M tonnes** Annual GHG emissions from construction |

**Sources:** The World Bank, International Energy Agency, NITI Aayog, Indian Green Building Council, NAREDCO, CREDAI

# Executive Summary

India has emerged as one of the world's largest green-building markets, reflecting a growing national commitment to resource efficiency, climate resilience and sustainable urban development. As cities expand and housing demand continues to rise, the residential sector is becoming an increasingly important driver of green building adoption. Beyond environmental benefits, sustainable housing has the potential to improve occupant well-being, reduce operating costs and create healthier, more resilient communities, making sustainability a critical consideration in India's urban growth story.

This transition presents a substantial opportunity for the housing sector. Homebuyers are becoming more conscious of operating costs, environmental impact, health and quality of life. Features such as energy-efficient design, water conservation systems, green open spaces, improved indoor environmental quality and climate resilience are increasingly influencing residential preferences. For developers, sustainability offers a pathway to differentiate projects, strengthen long-term asset value and align with evolving regulatory and investor expectations.

Despite this progress, sustainability remains difficult for most homebuyers to evaluate during the property-discovery process. While developers continue to invest in green-building initiatives, information about sustainability performance is often fragmented, inconsistent or communicated through highly technical disclosures.

As a result, buyers frequently struggle to identify, compare and assess sustainability features across projects. The challenge is not the absence of standards, India already has established frameworks such as IGBC, GRIHA and EDGE, but rather the lack of a simple and transparent mechanism that translates sustainability performance into information that is meaningful at the point of purchase.

As global real estate markets increasingly integrate environmental performance indicators into residential decision-making, the need for greater transparency in India's housing market is becoming more evident. Sustainability is gradually evolving from a niche consideration to a mainstream factor that can influence long-term affordability, comfort, resilience and property value.

Filling this gap, SYGLI is a standardized scoring framework embedded into Square Yards home search that acts as a transparency layer converting publicly available sustainability data into accessible measurable outcomes for home buying process. This consumer friendly score helps buyers make informed decisions, encourage greater disclosure across industry and support broader adoption of sustainability practices.

The Square Yards Green Living Index represents an important step towards building a more transparent and sustainability-aware residential real estate ecosystem. As India's housing market continues to evolve, the ability to evaluate sustainability alongside traditional factors such as location, price and configuration will become increasingly important in shaping the homes of the future.

## India's Green Building Ecosystem at a Glance

**16.05bn**
sq. ft. green footprint

**19,715+**
Total ecosystem green projects

**130+**
Net-zero projects

**199.3bn**
Litres of annual water savings

**66.4bn**
Units of annual energy savings

**53.1mn**
Tonnes of annual carbon reduction

**Source:** IGBC, June 2026. Statistics are based on IGBC disclosures and do not represent a consolidated total across all certification systems. Approximately 60% of projects are registered and 40% certified.

### Other major green building certification systems in India apart from IGBC:

**5,286**
Registered projects

**36mn**
sq. m. footprint

**1,844**
Total rated projects

**16mn+**
sq. ft. Gross builtup

Emerging green building certification focused on measurable reductions in energy use, water consumption and embodied carbon.

**Note:** Figures are reported by individual certification bodies and are not directly comparable due to differences in methodologies, reporting periods and project stages.

# 01 The Green Housing Paradox

## 1.1 India's Sustainability Ambition and the Information Gap

India is experiencing rapid urbanization, with hundreds of millions of people expected to move into cities by 2050. This growth will increase pressure on housing, energy, water resources, and urban infrastructure while climate change intensifies challenges such as rising temperatures, water stress, extreme weather, and higher energy demand.

To address these challenges, India has made sustainability a national priority through government policies, green-building certifications, and industry initiatives. The country has become one of the world's largest green-building markets, with the residential sector playing a critical role in reducing energy consumption, water use, carbon emissions, and improving long-term urban liveability through sustainable housing practices.

Despite growing adoption of sustainable development, a significant information gap persists. Sustainability information available to homebuyers is often fragmented, technical, and difficult to compare, making building performance largely invisible during property selection. This disconnect between India's sustainability ambitions and consumer awareness highlights the need for more transparent and accessible sustainability information in the housing market.

## 1.2 Why Sustainability Information Matters

India is undergoing one of the largest urban transitions in the world. As the population continues to grow and millions of people move to cities, the demand for housing, energy, water and urban infrastructure is increasing rapidly. At the same time, many Indian cities are experiencing the urban heat island effect, where dense construction, limited green cover and rising energy consumption contribute to significantly higher temperatures.

These challenges are making building performance increasingly important. Homes are no longer evaluated solely on location, price and amenities. Factors such as energy efficiency, thermal comfort, water management, green cover and climate resilience have a direct impact on household affordability, health and quality of life.

In this context, sustainability is no longer a choice—it is a necessity. The design and operation of residential buildings will play a critical role in reducing resource consumption, managing climate risks and supporting more resilient urban development.

However, many of the features that influence sustainability performance are not immediately visible to homebuyers. Elements such as passive cooling strategies, efficient building envelopes, rainwater harvesting systems and climate-resilient infrastructure are often difficult to identify and compare during the property-search process.

As India's cities continue to expand and climate-related pressures intensify, access to clear, reliable and comparable sustainability information will become increasingly important. Transparent sustainability information enables homebuyers to make better-informed decisions while encouraging developers to invest in features that improve long-term environmental and economic performance.

## 1.3 The Trust and Transparency Challenge

Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in India's residential real estate sector, yet homebuyers often find it difficult to evaluate and compare projects based on environmental performance. Although established frameworks such as IGBC, GRIHA, and EDGE provide robust sustainability assessments, the resulting information is typically scattered across certifications, technical reports, and marketing materials, making it difficult for consumers to access and understand.

As a result, sustainability is rarely considered alongside traditional homebuying factors such as location, price, and configuration. Developers that invest in energy efficiency, water conservation, climate resilience, and occupant well-being often struggle to communicate these benefits in a simple, credible, and comparable way. The challenge lies not in the lack of sustainability data, but in the absence of a standardized method for presenting it.

Globally, sustainability metrics are increasingly integrated into property discovery through energy ratings and environmental performance scores. India’s housing market requires a similar transparency layer that converts complex sustainability information into an accessible and actionable format. The Square Yards Green Living Index (SYGLI) has been developed to address this need by transforming publicly available sustainability disclosures into a simple, consumer-friendly sustainability score.

square yards

# 02 How Global Markets Operationalise Sustainability Information

## 2.1 Sustainability Information as Residential Market Infrastructure

Across major global housing markets, sustainability information has increasingly become an integral component of residential decision-making. Governments, certification bodies, climate-risk providers and digital property platforms have collectively developed mechanisms that allow buyers to evaluate not only a property's price, location and configuration, but also its energy performance, environmental risk exposure and long-term liveability.

While implementation varies across jurisdictions, the underlying trend is consistent: sustainability data is becoming more visible, standardised and accessible to consumers. India has established world-leading green-building certification systems and one of the largest green-building footprints globally, yet sustainability information remains fragmented and difficult to compare at the point of residential purchase.

**UK**

EPC mandatory at every listing

**A–G label**

**Australia**

NatHERS star rating shown in all listings

**0–10 stars**

**Singapore**

BCA Green Mark publicly searchable

**Platinum–Certified**

### Europe & UK

### 2.1.1 Regulatory compliance and energy ratings

Platforms are legally required to display mandatory EPC ratings with a standardised A–G band. Rightmove also shows historical flood risk data including past flood records and flood defences.

In France, Figaro Immobilier integrates DPE and GES regulatory frameworks with a proprietary Eco-Zone Score (0–100) evaluating pollution load, air quality, transport noise, and soil contamination.

square yards

## USA

### 2.1.2 Climate resilience and environmental risk

US platforms provide property-level climate risk scores (1–10) for flood, fire, wind, air quality, and heat, with 30-year forward-looking trend indicators.

Zillow and Redfin also include **Walk Score, Transit Score and Bike Score,** and lifestyle wellness indicators such as 'Low Noise' and 'Healthy Area'.

**WHAT BUYERS SEE — USA**

**Climate Risk Scores (1–10)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Flood Risk | 8/10 |
| Fire Risk | 6/10 |
| Wind Risk | 7/10 |
| Air Quality Risk | 5/10 |
| Heat Risk (30-yr) | 9/10 |

**Location Efficiency**

| Walk Score | Transit Score | Bike Score |
|---|---|---|
| 78 | 65 | 72 |
| Very Walkable | Good Transit | Very Bikeable |

Lifestyle wellness: Low Noise | Healthy Area

## Singapore and Australia

### 2.1.3 Certification proxies and feature filtering

PropertyGuru in Singapore provides a 1–5 Green Score based on public transit density within 400 metres and the presence of third-party sustainability certifications including BCA Green Mark and LEED.

Domain in Australia integrates sustainability through granular feature filtering, allowing buyers to search and compare properties explicitly by attributes  solar panels, water-efficient appliances, wall and ceiling insulation without requiring a unified score. Booking.com deploys a 'Travel Sustainable Level' badge system anchored to LEED and BREEAM certifications, demonstrating that even transient hospitality platforms have established a consumer-facing sustainability vocabulary.

**WHAT BUYERS SEE — SINGAPORE & AUS**


| | |
|---|---|
| **Transit Density** Within 400m | High |
| **Sustainability** Certifications | Yes |
| **Environmental** Features | Present |

| Platform | Market | Sustainability Metric | Approach |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Rightmove** | UK | Energy Performance Certificate (A–G) | Mandatory regulatory display + flood risk data |
| **Figaro Immobilier** | France | DPE / GES + Eco-Zone Score (0–100) | Regulatory ratings + proprietary environment scoring |
| **Redfin / Realtor.com** | USA | Climate Risk (Flood, Fire, Wind, AQI, Heat: 1–10) | Third-party forward-looking climate risk modelling |
| **Zillow / Redfin** | USA | Walk Score, Transit Score, Bike Score | Location efficiency and lifestyle wellness metrics |
| **PropertyGuru** | Singapore / Asia | Green Score (1–5) | Transport density + third-party certification proxy |
| **Domain** | Australia | Feature-level sustainability filters | Granular attribute filtering (solar, insulation, etc.) |
| **India** | India | None at scale | No standardised consumer-facing green score exists |

## 2.2 The Indian Opportunity

India possesses many of the foundational components required for transparent residential sustainability assessment, including mature certification systems, extensive digital property platforms and a rapidly expanding green-buildings market. However, sustainability information is rarely presented in a standardised format that allows consumers to compare projects consistently at the point of discovery.

The Square Yards Green Living Index seeks to address this gap by translating publicly available sustainability disclosures into a transparent, comparable and consumer-facing framework. Rather than replacing existing certification systems, the index complements them by making sustainability performance easier to interpret and compare across residential projects.

square yards

# 03 Square Yards Green Living Index (SYGLI) Framework

## Index Framework, Scoring Logic and Weight Calibration

The Square Yards Green Living Index evaluates residential projects using a 100-point framework to measure sustainability, livability, and long-term performance across four key pillars.

### Pillar 1: Resource Efficiency (50 points):

Measures the project's performance in optimising the use of energy, water, materials and waste management practices, reflecting its environmental sustainability.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WWR & Passive Architecture**<br>Passive Design, Natural Ventilation & Biophilic Living Spaces | 10 | Additive |
| **Energy Systems**<br>Energy-Efficient Systems, Solar Power & Smart Building Automation | 10 | Additive |
| **Water Management**<br>Water Recycling, Rainwater Harvesting & Efficient Water Management | 10 | Additive |
| **Glass & Shading**<br>Low-E Glass, Double Glazing & Passive Heat Reduction | 8 | Additive |
| **Embodied Energy & Materials**<br>Low-Carbon Materials, Recycled Content & Sustainable Construction | 7 | Additive |
| **Third-Party Certifications**<br>Green Building Certifications & Third-Party Sustainability Ratings | 5 | Hierarchical |

### Pillar 2: Health & Comfort (20 points):

Evaluates factors that contribute to occupant well-being, including indoor environmental quality, thermal comfort, natural lighting, ventilation, and access to healthy living spaces.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Air Purification**<br>Fresh Air Systems, HEPA Filtration & Smart Ventilation Controls | 8 | Additive |
| **Green Cover**<br>Green Cover Ratio Based on RERA-Declared Open Spaces | 5 | Formula |
| **Ecology & Biodiversity**<br>Native Landscaping, Miyawaki Forests & Biodiversity Enhancement | 2 | Additive |
| **Low-VOC / IEQ**<br>Low-VOC Materials, Lead-Free Coatings & Healthy Indoor Finishes | 5 | Hierarchical |

square yards

## Pillar 3: Safety & Resilience (15 points):

Assesses the project's ability to ensure occupant safety and withstand environmental, climatic and operational risks through robust design and preparedness measures.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Climate & Flood Resilience**<br>Flood Resilience, Stormwater Management & Climate-Adaptive Infrastructure | 8<br>Additive |
| **Waste Management Resilience**<br>Solid-waste treatment, composting and zero-discharge systems | 2<br>Formula |
| **Access Control**<br>Boom barriers, RFID access, smart locks and biometric systems | 3<br>Additive |
| **Digital Safety Infrastructure**<br>CCTV, video door phones and gas-leakage sensors | 2<br>Binary |

## Pillar 4: Connectivity (15 points):

Examines the project's accessibility to transportation networks, essential services, social infrastructure and digital connectivity, which collectively enhance convenience and quality of life for residents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Mass Transit Proximity**<br>Distance to metro or railway infrastructure | 7<br>Distance-Based |
| **Pedestrian & Micro-Mobility**<br>Public Transit Access, Walkability & Cycling Infrastructure | 5<br>Additive |
| **EV Readiness**<br>Dedicated electric-vehicle charging infrastructure | 3<br>Binary |

## Supporting pillars

The score allocated across the 4 pillars is further distributed across a set of sub-pillars and indicators that capture specific aspects of project performance. These indicators are evaluated using a combination of scoring methodologies, depending on the nature of the metric and the availability of data. This multi-method approach enables a comprehensive and objective assessment while ensuring that the scoring framework remains robust, transparent and adaptable to different performance criteria.

square yards

## Scoring methodology

### Additive scoring

Points from multiple criteria are summed to produce the final score.

### Binary scoring

01
10

Criteria are scored as either achieved (1) or not achieved (0), with no partial credit.

### Formula-based scoring

Scores are calculated using a mathematical formula that quantifies performance against specific metrics.

### Hierarchical scoring

Scores are determined through a multi-level framework — indicators feed category scores, which aggregate into an overall score.

### Distance-based scoring

Scores are assigned based on proximity to mass-transit networks (metro/railway), with closer values receiving higher scores.

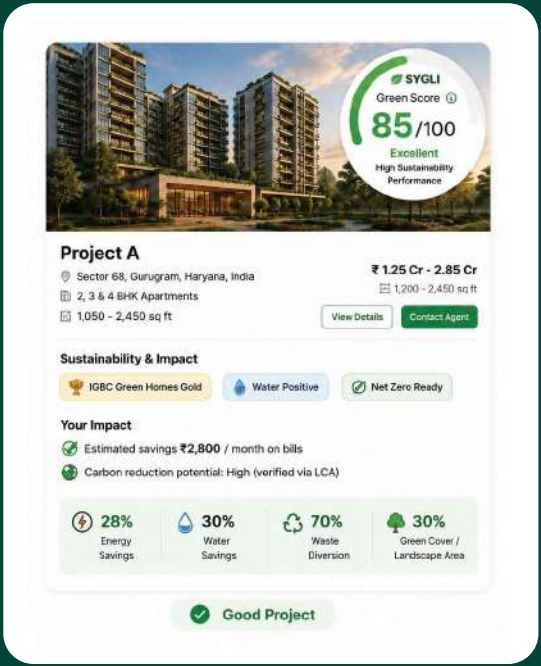
| | |
|---|---|
| Within 1 km of mass transit | 7 points |
| 1–3 km of mass transit | 4 points |
| Beyond 3 km of mass transit | 0 points |

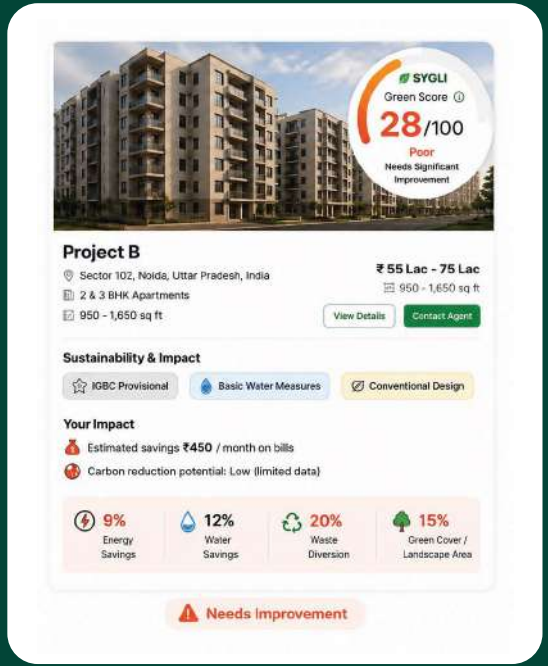
square yards

## Weightage rationale

The weighting framework prioritises environmental sustainability through Resource Efficiency while balancing resident well-being, risk preparedness and access to services and mobility. This distribution reflects the relative magnitude and duration of each pillar's impact on the environmental, social and economic performance of residential projects.

## Mockups for site integration




## Project scoring explained :

The examples below illustrate how identical residential projects can achieve significantly different sustainability outcomes depending on their design, infrastructure and environmental features.

| Pillar | Max Score | Project A | Project B |
|---|---|---|---|
| Resource Efficiency | 50 | 42 | 15 |
| Health & Comfort | 20 | 17 | 5 |
| Safety, Security & Resilience | 15 | 12 | 4 |
| Connectivity & Mobility | 15 | 14 | 4 |
| **Total SYGLI Score** | **100** | **85** | **28** |

The comparison demonstrates how design decisions, infrastructure investments, and sustainability features can substantially influence a project's overall performance. Even similar residential developments can achieve markedly different SYGLI scores depending on the quality and extent of their sustainability interventions.

# 04 The Automated Engine

## 4.1 How SYGLI Extracts Sustainability Data at Scale

The SYGLI uses a Python-based analytical engine to extract sustainability information from publicly available disclosures of residential projects. Rather than relying on manual audits or developer submissions, the system processes developer brochures, RERA filings and Square Yards platform intelligence to generate standardised sustainability scores at scale.

A disclosure-based approach was selected because it provides broad market coverage, operational scalability and consistent evaluation criteria. Projects are assessed only on publicly disclosed information that can be independently reviewed, ensuring transparency and replicability.

## 4.2 Data Sources

SYGLI combines information from three primary sources:

| Data | Purpose |
|---|---|
| **RERA Filings** | Plot area, green area, project location and regulatory disclosures |
| **Developer Brochures** | Sustainability features, technical specifications and amenities |
| **Square Yards Platform Intelligence** | Geospatial analysis, including proximity to metro stations, railway stations and public transport infrastructure |

Together, these sources provide the structured and unstructured data required to evaluate sustainability performance across all scoring pillars.

## 4.3 Document Processing and Feature Recognition

Project disclosures vary widely in format and quality. To ensure consistent analysis, the engine uses a dual-layer extraction process.

The system first extracts machine-readable text from digital documents. When text is embedded within images, layouts, or graphical elements, image recognition techniques are used to capture additional content. Extracted text is then standardised and analysed using a sustainability keyword framework.

The framework is designed to recognise variations in terminology, branded sustainability features and differences in document structure. This helps ensure projects are evaluated consistently regardless of how sustainability information is presented.

## 4.4 Continuous Improvement

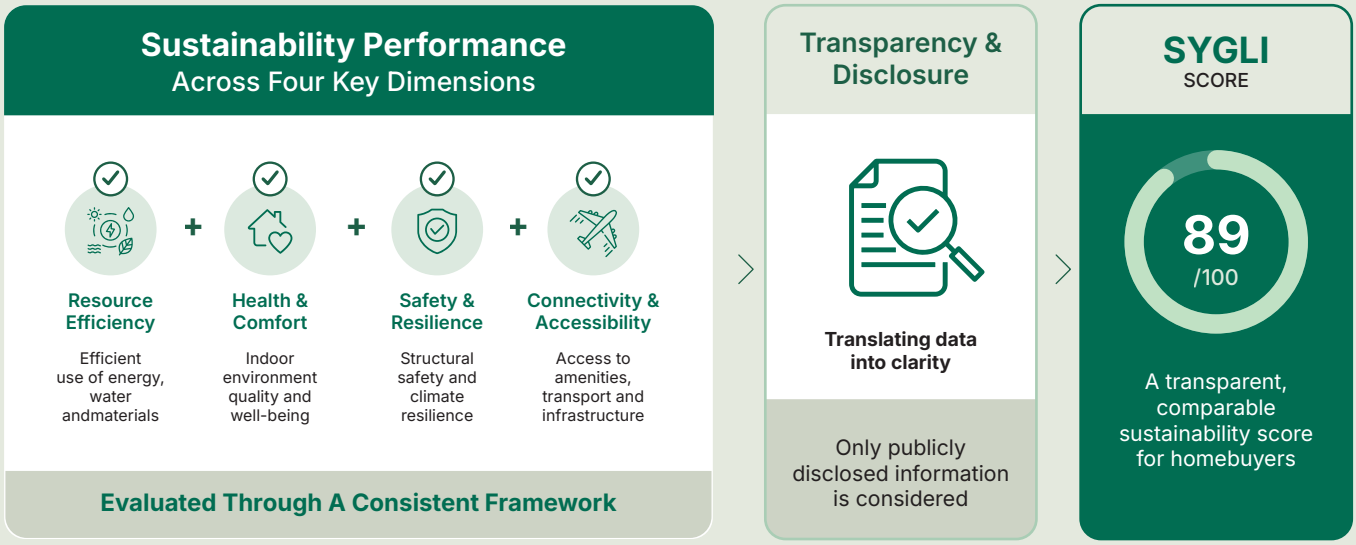
The SYGLI evaluates only publicly disclosed information. If sustainability features are not documented within available project materials, they cannot be incorporated into the score.

Developers may improve score accuracy by providing updated public disclosures. Where new information aligns with the framework's criteria, scores can be revised accordingly.

### Key Takeaway

*The SYGLI applies a consistent analytical process to publicly available project information, enabling sustainability features to be identified, evaluated and compared at scale across India's residential market.*

## How SYGLI Works




## Driving Better Outcomes For All Stakeholders

**Homebuyers**
Informed choices for healthier, future-ready homes

**Developers**
Recognition for meaningful sustainability investments

**Financial Institutions**
Structured sustainability data for better risk assessment

**Policymakers**
Improved transparency to support sustainable urban development

# 05 Driving Market Behaviour

## 5.1 Creating Incentives Through Transparency

A standardised and publicly visible sustainability score does more than inform buyers. When applied consistently across a large residential marketplace, it creates incentives for developers, buyers and other market participants to engage more actively with sustainability performance.

The SYGLI rewards clear and verifiable disclosure. Projects receive credit only for sustainability features explicitly documented in publicly available materials. As a result, developers are encouraged to communicate measurable sustainability interventions rather than relying on broad environmental claims.

For homebuyers, the framework simplifies comparison by translating complex sustainability information into a standardised score. This helps shift decision-making from marketing language toward measurable project characteristics.

## 5.2 Implications for Green Finance

As sustainable housing gains greater attention from lenders and investors, comparable project-level sustainability data may become increasingly valuable.

The SYGLI complements existing certification systems by providing a structured and transparent assessment framework. Over time, standardised sustainability information could support more advanced approaches to green finance, sustainability-linked lending and environmental risk assessment within the residential sector.

## 5.3 Implications for Policymakers

The SYGLI operates within the existing regulatory framework but demonstrates the feasibility of standardised sustainability disclosure across residential developments.

Many of the indicators evaluated by the framework are already disclosed in project materials. Greater consistency in how this information is reported could improve market transparency and support broader sustainability objectives across the housing sector.

## 5.4 Looking Ahead

India's residential market is still in the early stages of sustainability transparency. As environmental performance becomes increasingly important to buyers, investors and financial institutions, access to reliable and comparable sustainability information is likely to become more valuable.

The long-term significance of the SYGLI lies not only in scoring projects but in establishing a consistent information layer that enables sustainability performance to be evaluated and compared across the residential market.

# 06 The Road Ahead

## 6.1 Current Limitations

The SYGLI has been designed as a scalable and transparent framework for evaluating residential sustainability disclosures. However, several limitations should be noted.
First, the framework assesses publicly disclosed sustainability features rather than verified post-occupancy performance. As a result, the scores reflect the documented design intent and specified infrastructure rather than actual performance.

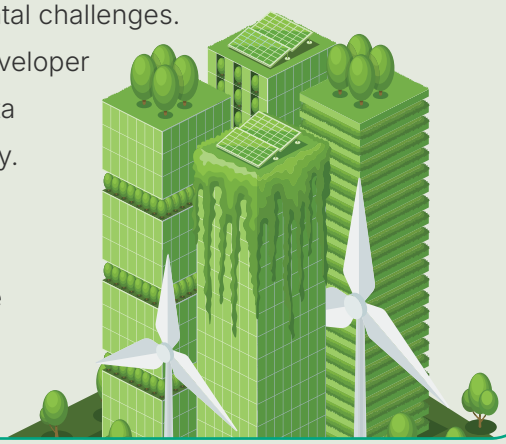
Second, while the feature-recognition engine captures a wide range of sustainability interventions, it may not always identify emerging technologies, proprietary product names, or non-standard terminology. The framework is intended to evolve through continuous updates to its recognition library.

Lastly, the current methodology employs a uniform national scoring model and does not yet account for regional differences in climate risks, water stress, or environmental conditions.

## 6.2 Future Development

Future iterations of the framework may introduce regional climate-resilience calibration, allowing sustainability priorities to reflect local environmental challenges.
The platform may also evolve to incorporate structured developer disclosures alongside automated extraction, improving data quality while maintaining a consistent scoring methodology.

These enhancements would strengthen the framework's ability to evaluate both sustainability and climate resilience across diverse residential markets.



## 6.3 Building a Sustainability Data Layer

The long-term objective of the SYGLI extends beyond project scoring. As sustainability information becomes more structured and comparable, residential developments can increasingly be evaluated on environmental performance alongside traditional factors such as location, configuration and price.
By creating a standardised sustainability data layer for residential real estate, the framework establishes a foundation for future innovations in climate resilience assessment, green finance and sustainability benchmarking.

# 07 Conclusion

## 7.1 From Green Marketing to Green Living

The SYGLI benefits the entire housing ecosystem. Homebuyers gain greater visibility into environmental performance, developers receive recognition for meaningful sustainability investments, financial institutions gain access to structured sustainability data, and policymakers benefit from improved transparency across the residential sector.

Importantly, the SYGLI is not intended to replace existing certification systems. Rather, it complements them by making sustainability information more visible, accessible and comparable at the point of purchase.

As India continues to urbanise, the quality and performance of residential buildings will play an increasingly important role in shaping energy demand, water consumption, climate resilience and quality of life. The homes of the future will be evaluated not only by their location, price and amenities, but also by their ability to deliver long-term comfort, efficiency and resilience in a changing climate.

Sustainable housing will become mainstream when sustainability information is as visible and comparable as price and location. By translating complex sustainability disclosures into a simple and transparent framework, the Square Yards Green Living Index represents an important step towards a more informed, transparent and future-ready residential real estate market for India.

# References


Indian Green Building Council **(IGBC)**

GRIHA Council

International Finance Corporation **(IFC) – EDGE**

International WELL Building Institute **(IWBI)**

International Energy Agency **(IEA)**

United Nations Environment Programme **(UNEP)**

Bureau of Energy Efficiency **(BEE)**

NITI Aayog

Ministry of Jal Shakti

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs **(MoHUA)**

National Housing Bank **(NHB)**

Reserve Bank of India **(RBI)**

The World Bank

CREDAI–Liases Foras

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **(MoEFCC)**

Food and Agriculture Organization **(FAO)**

# Collaborators of SYGLI

## Square Yards Research

Square Yards Research serves as the knowledge and insights arm of Square Yards, producing data-driven analysis and market intelligence on India's real estate sector. Through extensive research, stakeholder engagement, and industry expertise, it delivers actionable insights that support informed decision-making and contribute to the evolution of a more transparent and sustainable real estate ecosystem.

## The Habitat Emprise

The Habitat Emprise collaborated as the Sustainability Research Partner for the Green Living Index, bringing expertise in sustainable development, ESG frameworks, climate resilience, and the built environment. The organization supported the development of the report's sustainability framework, research methodology, analysis, and recommendations, ensuring that the study reflects global best practices while remaining relevant to the Indian context.

## NAREDCO

The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, has extended its support to the launch of the Green Living Index at the National Real Estate Conclave. NAREDCO also provided valuable industry feedback and review inputs during the development of the report, helping strengthen its relevance for the real estate sector.

square yards | The Habitat Emprise | NAREDCO

### Shared Commitment

The Green Living Index represents a collaborative effort to advance sustainability-led dialogue within India's real estate sector. By bringing together market intelligence, sustainability expertise, and industry engagement, the report aims to encourage responsible development and support the transition towards greener and more resilient communities.

## Researchers & Analysts


**Dr. Priyanka Kochchar**
**CEO & Co-founder**
The Habitat Emprise
pkochhar@thehabitatemprise.com

**Pujeet Jha**
**Young Professional**
The Habitat Emprise
pujeet.habitat@gmail.com

**Vivek Agarwal**
**CTO & Co-Founder**
Square Yards
vivek.agarwal@squareyards.com

**Sakshi Saxena**
**Sr. Manager: Research & Media Outreach**
Square Yards
sakshi.saxena@squareyards.in

**Riddhi Chatterji**
**Research Analyst**
Square Yards
riddhi.chatterji@squareyards.in

**Sunita Mishra**
**Vice President: Research & Insights**
Square Yards
sunita.mishra@squareyards.in

**Kunal Sachdeva**
**AGM - Insights & Media Outreach**
Square Yards
kunal.sachdeva@squareyards.in

**Sandeep Chaurasia**
**Brand Design Lead**
Square Yards
sandeep.chaurasia@squareyards.in


**Scan this QR to read our other reports.**