



Retailers investing in green buildings

The retail and hospitality sectors are increasingly investing in green building projects with growth particularly evident in the past two years, according to a study released by McGraw Hill Construction in partnership with Waste Management.

The percentage of retail owners that are “highly involved” in green building — a category that means more than half of their new buildings are green — jumped from 18% in 2011 to 38% in 2013, the report found.

The report, *Green Retail and Hospitality: Capitalizing on the Growth in Green Building Investments*, projects that number will rise to 52% over the next two years. The study defined a green building project as one built to LEED or another recognised green building standard, or one that is energy-efficient, water-efficient, and improves indoor air quality and/or engages in material resource conservation.

The report, which is based on a study of 79 retail, 30 hotel and 22 restaurant owners, found growth in green building hasn't been confined to new construction activity. Nearly two-thirds of retail and three quarters of hotel owners also expect to invest in green operations and maintenance by 2015.

A number of incentives, including an increase in asset value and decrease in operating costs have helped drive the growth in green building, the report says.