

## Pushing for more green buildings

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(From left) Council secretary Addnan Mohd Razali and Yew attending the full council meeting at City Hall in George Town, Penang. — Photos by MUSTAFA AHMAD/The Star

DEVELOPERS whose projects have Green Building Index (GBI) certification in Penang will be eligible for rebates on assessment fees and development charges until 2021.

Penang Island City Council (MBPP) mayor Yew Tung Seang said the rebates would be given only to buildings certified by the GBI Accreditation Panel (GBIAP) in the gold and platinum categories.

“Developers with projects that achieve the GBI certification from the designing to the completion stage will receive incentives in the form of rebates on development charges.

“The rebate will be given out in three stages over three years,” he said after the council meeting at City Hall in Penang last Thursday.

“Penang has the third highest number of buildings with GBI certification in Malaysia. There are 42 buildings covering 14.9m sq ft.



(From right) MBPP councillors Gerald Mak Mun Keong, Azli Ibrahim, Dr Chee Heng Leng, Nur Zarina Zakaria, Gooi Seong Kin and R. Hari Krishnan discussing matters after the full council meeting.

“GBI-certified buildings reduce carbon dioxide emissions so we are trying to push for new buildings to be green and for existing ones to sustain their GBI status.”

He revealed that developers who maintain their GBI certification would also be eligible for a 10% rebate in assessment fees each year.

“But keep in mind that GBI certification will have to be renewed every three years,” he said, adding that the rebates would only be available until 2021.

From 2021, he said the assessment fees for existing buildings with GBI certification would be waived for the first three years.

“A 10% rebate will be given for each subsequent year. The council will also waive the application fees for those applying for the renewal of GBI for their buildings.”