

CONTRIBUTION OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

The biggest challenge faced by the community is controlling and monitoring the performance of built environment facilities in a sustainable way. From this dimension, effective use of Building Management System (BMS) in the built environment is representing a significant strategy in relation to economic, environment and social perspectives. Higher energy efficiency, lower operating and maintenance costs, better indoor air quality, greater occupant comfort and productivity are the major achievements of a successful BMS. Therefore, at present it is so evident that, many organizations are enthusiastic to allocate a substantial investment, in order to, install, commissioning, operation and maintenance of BMS. However, to obtain the optimum use of BMS is still challenging among the building users. Thus, the requirement of developing a framework for functionality of BMS is essential in order to gain maximum benefits through operating building automation and control systems.

The aim of the paper is to investigate the contribution of BMS in achieving a sustainable built environment. The findings are achieved through conducting literature and documentary review available in the built environment and analyzing green building rating systems to find out the input of BMS towards sustainable built environment. Therefore, comparative study conducted between LEED, BREEAM and Green Star rating systems. Based on the findings, theoretical framework was developed to facilitate contribution of BMS in sustainable development. Moreover, the paper is engaged in analyzing the credit contribution of BMS in order to gain the green rating certification.

Keywords: Building Management System; Green Building Assessment Tools; Sustainable Built Environment.

1. INTRODUCTION

The biggest challenge, faced by the community is controlling and monitoring the performance of built environment facilities in a sustainable way. As explained by Forsberg and Malmborg (2004), built environment plays a vital role in the society of today, being a result of a number of social and economic processes that are central to the sustainable development. From the recent years, the pursuit of sustainability has become a mainstream of building design objectives as the physical environment of the earth is deteriorating (Wong and Fan, 2012). Therefore, sustainable development is now become the fundamental approach of creating the competition over built environment and more and more methods, put into practices to achieve sustainable built environment. Building Management System (BMS) is one of the new and innovative technologies, which has emerged in recent years and makes potential achievement of more sustainable designs. KMC Controls (2011) justified that the building sustainability could be achieved through higher energy efficiency, lower operating and maintenance costs, better indoor air quality, greater occupant comfort and productivity through implementing BMS.

In addition, Sinou and Kyvelou (2006) stated that the growth and the use of building performance assessment methodologies are further known as the green building rating systems, for an example LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) in the United States, BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) in United Kingdom, CASBEE (Comprehensive Assessment System for Building Environmental Efficiency) in Japan, Green Star Australia contribute greatly for the integration of methods and practices favouring sustainability in the

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building sector. Consequently these building performance assessment methodologies act as the pathway of achieving sustainability in the built environment.

According to KMC Controls (2011), sustainability may be driven by a number of factors such as environmental stewardship, the desire for green building certification, or the financial promises of lower operating costs. Hodges (2005) stated that implementing sustainability and green building approaches, organizations will be benefited through greater financial returns, increased standing in the community, improved productivity and reduced detrimental effects on the environment. Moreover, Waidyasekara and Sandamali (2012) mentioned that green buildings provide many benefits to the organisation, for its employees and to the whole society over to its initial cost. Therefore, selection of the appropriate sustainable approach is represented with a crucial strategy in the design and construction of a building. Croome, *et al.*, (2004) recognised the rational use of natural resources and appropriate management of the building stock will contribute for saving scarce resources, reducing energy consumption, and for improving environmental quality. As revealed from literature, building management systems or automation systems is empowered to play a vital role in controlling and monitoring the functions of building in a sustainable way (Brown, 1990; KMC Controls, 2011). However, the input of BMS in sustainable rating systems and its contribution towards sustainability were given the least priority in the available literature.

Therefore, the aim of the paper is to investigate the contribution of BMS in achieving sustainable built environment. The following objectives were set in order to achieve the above aim.

- Identifying features and functions of BMS and its contribution to sustainability
- Developing a theoretical framework for the contribution of BMS under the philosophy of sustainable built environment
- Identifying the inputs of the BMS in green rating systems towards green certification

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. SUSTAINABILITY IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability, as a concept is emerged with the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) by the United Nations in 1983. According to Carew and Mitchell (2008), the sustainability literature supports the subdivisions of the broader concept into the secondary interrelated concepts like environmental, social and economic sustainability. The Brundtland Commission (1987 as cited in Fellows, 2006) defined sustainable development as “the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This is the common and most popular definition used to describe sustainable development. As stated by Shah (2007), over 500 definitions of sustainability and sustainable development were spawned by various governments, professional bodies, institutions and organizations.

Akadiri and Olomolaiye (2012) pointed out that, the building industry is a vital element of any economy which has a significant impact towards the environment. With respect to such significant influence of the building industry, the sustainable building approach has a high potential to make a valuable contribution to sustainable development. Croome, *et al.*, (2004) identified five objectives for sustainable buildings such that resource efficiency, energy efficiency (including greenhouse gas emissions reduction), pollution prevention (including indoor air quality and noise abatement), harmonisation with the environment, and integrated and systemic approach. Three dimensions of sustainability; environmental, economic and social were interpreted for a sustainable building by Kohler (1999) as shown in Figure 1. According to Kohler (1999), Ecological Sustainability can be quantitatively analysed with respect to the energy and mass flows in time and space within a life cycle assessment in terms of resource and ecosystem. In addition to that, Economic sustainability can be divided into two as investment and use costs. Hence, instead of minimizing investment cost through

crossing low-cost of building processes and products, it is preferable for a given investment to find solutions that have the highest durability and reusability. Hence, it will pave the way towards, the social and cultural aspects of sustainability including comfort and health protection, and preservation of values, which is one of the main motivations behind any conservation projects (Kohler, 1999).

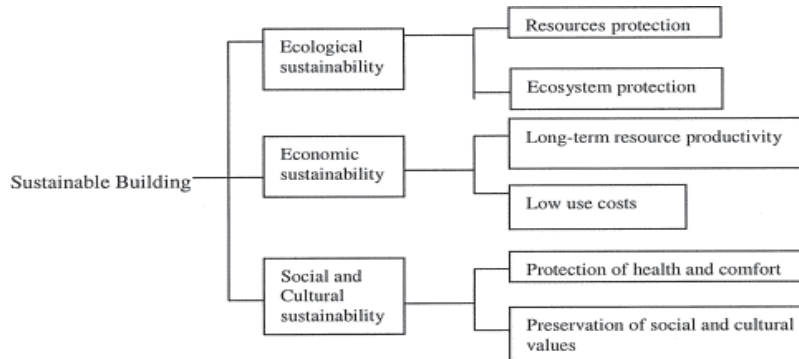


Figure 1: Three Dimensions of Sustainable Building, (Source: Kohler, 1999)

2.2. INTRODUCTION TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (BMS)

Brown (1990) defined BMS as “a system designed and implemented to control and monitor the functions of a building and its associated plant”. As depicted in literature, the term Building Automation System (BAS) and Building Control System (BCS) similar terms which are utilised to refer the BMS. As explained by Brown (1990), all subsystems of BMS work together in a single building. Moreover, BMS is shared with the same building information affecting each other. Therefore, it should be an integrated within the same information platform. In order to achieve specific goals, several integrated BMS solutions have been worked out, however, these solutions may differ according to the requirements as explained by Brown (1990). Jiang *et al.*, (2011) elaborated the general structure of BMS as illustrated in Figure 2. According to Figure 2, BMS uses computer based monitoring to coordinate, to organise and to optimise building control sub systems such as security, fire/life safety, elevators, and others. However, it is added in controlling connected plant to maintain a preset requirement of the building. BMS is also connected in monitoring inputs such as temperature readings and process them using digital controllers to give control outputs back to the building. All the subsystems of the building are interconnected and information is passed across them using the network.

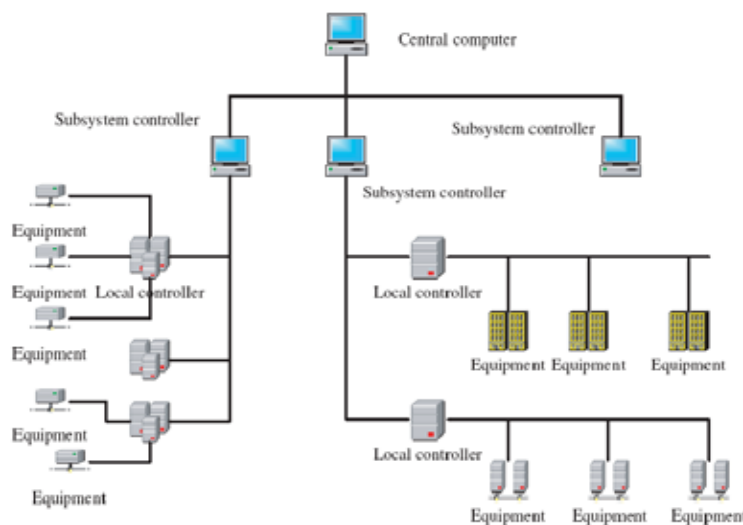


Figure 2: BAS System (Source: Jiang, *et al.*, 2011)

Allen and Remke (2008) stated that, the building automation or management system is used to control functions of a Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) system including temperature and ventilation, as well as equipment scheduling. Apart from that, monitoring of utility demand, energy use, building conditions, climatic data, and equipment status are identified as the additional features which are included in the system. In addition, BAS is integrated with the additional building features such as video surveillance, access control, lighting control, and interfacing with the fire and security systems. Moreover, as mentioned by Allen and Remke (2008), utility load profiles, the trends and operation logs of equipment, and the generation of maintenance schedules are some outputs of BMS. The University of Bristol (2004) summarised the common capabilities of BMS include the followings.

- Equipment scheduling (turning equipment off and on as required)
- Optimum start/stop (turning heating and cooling equipment on in advance to ensure the building is at the required temperature during occupancy)
- Operator adjustment (accessing operator set-points that tune system to changing conditions)
- Monitoring (logging of temperature, energy use, equipment start times, operator logon)
- Alarm reporting (notifying the operator of failed equipment, out of limit temperature/pressure conditions or need for maintenance)

As stated by Anon (2005), incorporating the above capabilities a building can:

- Make the operation and management easy in complex mechanical and electrical services environments
- Monitor and control sophisticated equipment
- Ensure that building users are satisfied with the services provide all the time in a high service level expectancy environment.
- Enhance the lifetime of the plants and machinery
- Optimize energy consumption and save energy
- Disaster management and safety
- Meet regulations

Even though BMS is included with many features, as mentioned in CIBSE Guide H (1999), when deciding on the appropriate type of control system to specify for a building, it is essential to consider the benefits of a modern control system that are matched with the requirement of different groups of users involved with the building. Moreover, in order to gain the expected benefits, the system should be properly specified, installed, commissioned, operated and maintained. Table 1 listed some of the benefits to be achieved with an effective modern BMS according to the type of building stakeholder. In addition, Wang and Xie (2002) explained that the Facility Managers need BMS to control building performance, manage and distribute services, adapt rapidly changed the requirements and to provide important management information. Moreover, Wang (2010) highlighted main typical benefits of having BAS as; increased reliability of plant and services, reduced operating costs, building management, enhancing staff productivity, and protection of people and equipment.

The report CIBSE Guide F (2004) highlighted, BMS is empowered to improve the overall management and performance of buildings, promoting a holistic approach to controls and providing operational feedback. Furthermore, the same report cited 10% to 20% energy savings can be achieved by installing a BMS compared to independent controllers for each system.

Table 1: Benefits of BMS (Source: CIBSE Guide H, 1999)

Building Stakeholder	Benefits
Building owner	Higher rental value Flexibility on change of building use Individual tenant billing for services
Building tenant	Reduced energy consumption Effective monitoring and targeting of energy consumption Good control of internal comfort conditions Increased staff productivity Improved plant reliability and life
Occupants	Better comfort and lighting Possibility of individual room control Effective response to HVAC related complaints
Facilities manager	Control from central supervisor Remote monitoring possible Rapid alarm indication and fault diagnosis Computerised maintenance scheduling Good plant schematics and documentation
Controls contractor	Bus systems simplify installation Supervisor aids setting up and commissioning Interoperability enlarges supplier choice

2.3. CONTRIBUTION OF BMS IN SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The concept of sustainability is regarded to be three-folds; environmental, social and economic, out of which environmental sustainability is considered to be the backbone of the other two. Morelli (2011) defined environmental sustainability as the meeting the resources and services needs of current and future generations without compromising the health of the ecosystems and this allows human society to satisfy its needs while neither exceeding the capacity of its supporting ecosystems to continue to regenerate the services necessary to meet those needs nor by human actions diminishing biological diversity. Gadakari, *et al.* (2012) explained economic sustainability is the term used to identify various strategies that make it possible to utilise available resources to best advantage and encourages its responsible use. Moreover, economic parameter make sure that the business is making a profit while addressing environmental concerns and contributing to the financial welfare of the owners, employees, and the community where the business is located. Social sustainability is the idea that “future generations should have the same or greater access to social resources as the current generation (inter-generational equity), while there should also be equal access to social resources within the current generation (intra-generational equity)”.

As stated in the previous section, functions of BMS such as stop and start equipment when needed; monitoring space conditions and occupancies; and implementing sophisticated strategies will reduce overall energy use. Furthermore, BMS is contributed to improve indoor air quality through continual ventilation adjustments and air-quality monitoring; and maximise day lighting by automating shading systems (Gadakari, *et al.*, 2012). Wu and Noy (2010) mentioned that a building knows when and where it is occupied able to limit its own energy use by confining the operation of power-hungry HVAC and lighting systems to the hours and areas of the building which are needed. Occupancy sensors are used to enhance the presence detection and accurate localised occupancy information to provide solutions that are energy-efficient without compromising on occupant comfort and productivity (Dounis *et al.*, 2011 and Pandharipande and Caicedo, 2011). Johnson Controls, a leading producer of energy-saving equipment, explained that the companies could reduce energy bills by 20% to 25% by using efficiently programmed and monitored BMS and through other intelligent controls (Mazza, 2008). Ferguson, Director of Johnson Controls, said that the biggest savings arise through the management of heating and cooling. One degree Centigrade down in heating temperature will provide around 7% savings on the energy necessary to heat the building (Clarke, 2008). Katz and Skopek (2009) recognise not only

the benefits of the BMS as decrease in building maintenance and energy costs; increase in productivity, rental incomes but also the guard against repair costs, productivity loss, revenue loss, and loss of customers to competitors. As stated by Gadakari, *et al*, (2012), social implication of intelligent technologies on our lifestyles needs to possess a delicate attention to ensure an enriching environment to make life meaningful amidst all the technological progress. Moreover, KMC Controls (2009) mentioned, a control system is fruitful for both individual comfort control as well as for an efficient use of equipment and power. And also historical data can be used either to improve building performance while maintaining occupant productivity.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

Literature available in the built environment and the documentary review were used to achieve the research objectives. Theoretical framework for BMS towards sustainable built environment was developed based on the key literature findings. International green rating systems, Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) as the world longest established rating system and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) as the most popular and widely used building assessment tool selected for the comparative analysis of BMS input towards green certification. In addition Local rating system Green^{SL} too considered during the analysis.

4. PROPOSED THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR BMS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

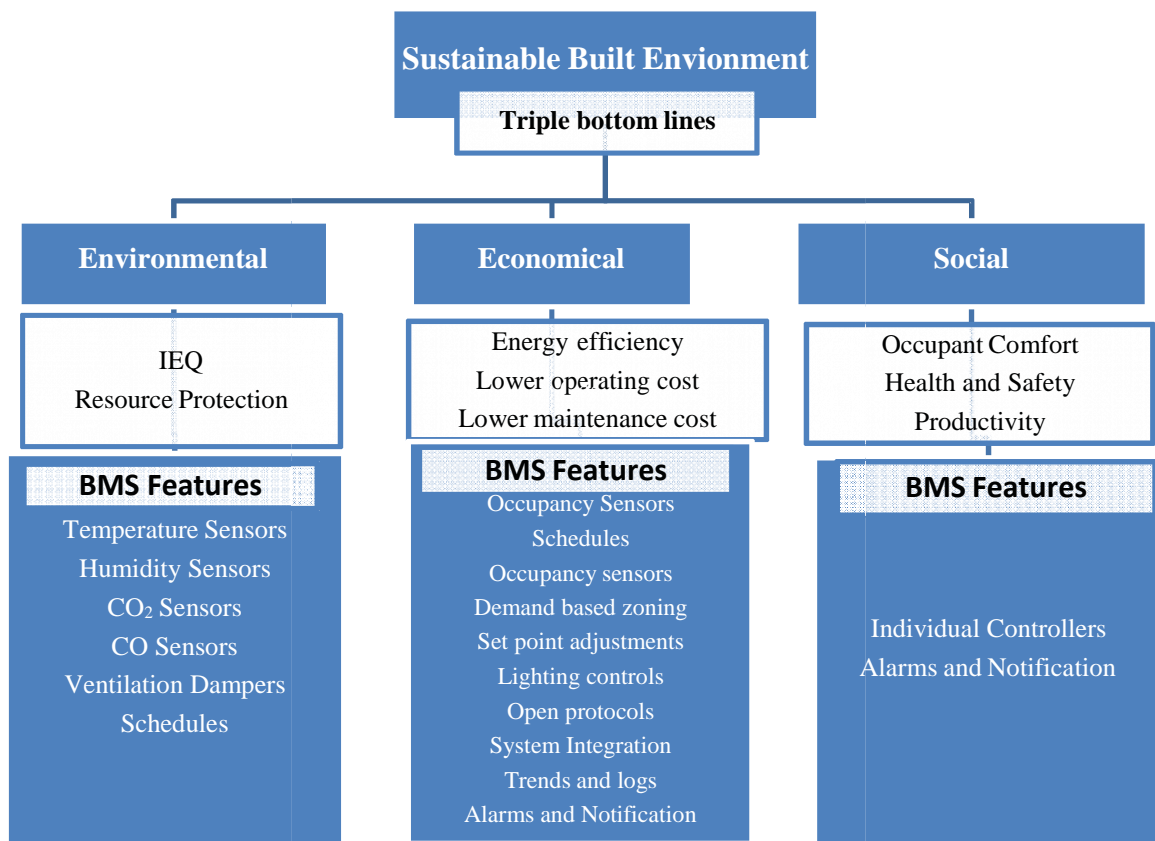


Figure 3: Proposed Theoretical Framework for BMS Contribution in Sustainable Built Environment

Sections 2.2 and 2.3 have discussed about the functions, features of BMS and its contribution in a sustainable built environment. Based on the key literature findings, theoretical framework was developed as illustrated in Figure 3. It is being facilitated in identifying the contribution of BMS and

justified characteristics that should be achieved in order of gaining sustainable built environment through BMS features. Since this research is at the initial stage, an expert opinion survey will be carried out as the next step to check the validity of the framework developed.

5. BMS INPUTS IN GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS

A green building rating system provides an effective framework for assessing building environmental performance and integrating sustainable development into building and construction processes (Cole, 2003 cited Ali and Nsairat, 2008). Cole and Kernan (1996) stated that assessment measurements based on building life cycle is empowered to produce significant long-term benefits for building owners and occupants as this system support for solving existing building problems, limiting environmental impacts, creating healthier and more productive places and reducing building operations cost. LEED in United States, BREEAM in United Kingdom, CASBEE in Japan, Green Mark in Singapore, GRIHA in India and Green Star in Australia are some of the well-known rating systems around the world (Wikipedia, 2013). Although many green rating systems are currently available LEED, BREEAM and Green^{SL} were selected for the comparative study.

5.1. LEED - LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN – UNITED STATES

LEED is a credit based building rating system developed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). According to USGBC (2009), “LEED is a voluntary rating program, goal is to evaluate environmental performance from the whole building perspective over the building's Lifecycle, providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a green building”. According to USGBC (2009), LEED is involved with the promotion of a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognising performance in Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, Regional priority, and Innovation and Design Process areas. KMC Controls (2011) highlighted the fact that a properly designed and installed building control system is eligible in leading fulfilled credits worth up to 48 points in the LEED rating system. In LEED, building automation has an impact in gaining credits gain from Energy and Atmosphere (E and A), Indoor Environmental Quality, Water Efficiency, and Sustainable Sites sections (KMC Controls, 2011). Energy and Atmosphere (E and A) is the most impact section out of them (Please Refer Table 2).

5.2. BREEAM-BUILDING RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHOD – UNITED KINGDOM

The Building Research Establishment (BRE) of UK introduced the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) in 1990, which was the first environmental assessment tool to be used internationally (Cassidy, 2003). The primary aim of BREEAM 2011 New Construction is to mitigate the life cycle impacts of new buildings on the environment in a robust and cost effective manner. According to the BREEAM 2011 NC, assessed the performance of buildings under the ten main sections and allocated different points for each section. They are Management, Health and Wellbeing, Energy, Transport, Water, Materials, Waste, Land use and Ecology, Pollution, and Innovation. Currently in the UK, clients, planners, development agencies and developers are using BREEAM to specify the sustainability performance of their buildings in a way that is quick, comprehensive and visible in the marketplace (Gowri, 2004; Potbhare *et al.*, 2009). Table 2 summarised the relevant sections that the BMS could contribute against the green certification in the BREEAM.

5.3. GREEN^{SL} RATING SYSTEM

Green^{SL} rating system was developed in 2010 by the Green Building Council Sri Lanka (GBCSL) for a new and existing buildings based on LEED rating system. Mudalige (2012) stated, GREEN^{SL} rating

system has been introduced for the first time in Sri Lanka for built environment taking up the challenge to create sustainable buildings for the future.

Table 2: BMS Contribution in Green Rating Systems

LEED NEW		GREEN SL		BREEAM	
Sustainable Sites		Sustainable Sites		Pollution	
Light Pollution Reduction	1	Light Pollution Reduction	1	Reduction of Night Time Light Pollution	1
Energy and tmosphere		Energy and Atmosphere		Energy	
Fundamental Commissioning of Building Energy Systems	Required	Fundamental Building Systems Commissioning	Required	Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions	15
Minimum Energy Performance	Required	Minimum Energy Performance	Required	Sub-Metering of Substantial Energy Uses	1
Optimize Energy Performance	1 to 19	Optimize Energy Performance	1 to 10		
On-site Renewable Engy	1 to 7	Renewable Energy	1 to 8	Sub-Metering of High Energy Load and Tenancy Areas	1
Enhanced Commissioning	2	Additional Commissioning	1		
Enhanced Refrigerant mgt	2	Ozone Depletion	1	External Lighting	1
Measurement and Verification	3	Measurement and Verification	1	Lifts	2
Indoor Environmental Quality		Indoor Environmental Quality		Health & Wellbeing	
Minimum Indoor Air Quality Performance	Required	Minimum IAQ Performance	Required	Glare Control	1
Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) Control	Required	Smoke (ETS) Control	Required	Internal & External Lighting	1
Outdoor Air Delivery Monitoring	1	Outdoor Air Delivery Monitoring	1	Lighting Zones & Controls	1
Increased Ventilation	1	Increased Ventilation	1	Potential for Natural Ventilation	1
Indoor Chemical and Pollutant Source Control	1	Indoor Chemical and Pollutant Source Control	1	Indoor Air Quality	1
Controllability of Systems—Lighting	1	Lighting Controls	1	Thermal comfort	1
Controllability of Systems-thermal comfort	1	Comfort Controls	1	Thermal Zoning	1
Thermal Comfort-design	1	Thermal comfort, design	1		
Thermal Comfort	1	Thermal Comfort,	1		
Water Efficiency		Water Efficiency		Water	
Water Use Reduction	2 to 4	Water Use Reduction	2 to 4	Water Consumption	2
				Water meter	1
				Major Leak detection	1
Total contributory points	45	Total contributory points	33	Total contributory points	32

The GREENSL Rating System for Built Environment is a set of performance standards for certifying Built Environments in the form of commercial or institutional buildings and high-rise residential

buildings of all sizes, both public and private. The intent is to promote high performance, healthy, durable, affordable, and environmentally sound practices for new and existing buildings (GBCSL, 2011). GreenSL rating system for built environment is addressed to eight aspects. Such that Management (MN), Sustainable Sites (SS), Water Efficiency (WE), Energy and Atmosphere (EA), Materials and Resources (MR), Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ), Innovation and Design process (ID), and Social and Cultural awareness (SC).

Table 2 summarised the contribution of building automation and control system in green building rating systems. LEED and Green^{SL} possess a similar structure. Instead of Indoor environment quality and sustainable site used in LEED and Green^{SL}, Health & wellbeing and Land use & ecology terms used respectively in the BREEAM rating system, although provide with the similar meaning. After reviewing each rating system it was found that, building automation has the most impact on the 'Energy' section. In addition, BMS impacts on the IEQ, water, sustainable sites and pollution sections as well. However its contribution in each section is very. As mentioned in KMC controls (2011), it is important to understand the difference between a contributory credit and a compliance credit. It is furthermore elaborated, with rare exception, the use of a particular product or type of product cannot, in and of itself, lead to credit compliance. For the most part, products, of whatever type, contribute to the fulfilment of particular credits. How the particular features of BMS contribute to the fulfilment of particular credits in rating systems is shown from Table 2. It was found that BMS is contributed with the maximum points of 45, 33 and 32 for the green certification in LEED, Green^{SL} and BREEAM respectively. Another vital fact is that in each rating system credit achievement is impossible without the contributory help of the control system.

6. CONCLUSIONS

BMS is one of the innovative technologies emerged in recent years to make potential achievement of the sustainable designs. This research was carried out to determine how BMS features contribute towards a sustainable built environment. The paper is presented a theoretical framework that developed for BMS based on the key findings of literature review and the documentary review. Furthermore, it was found that in order to get the maximum benefits from BMS, the system should be properly specified, installed, commissioned, operated and maintained in an addition match with the type and requirements of users involved in the building. Moreover, the paper is analysed itself on LEED, Green^{SL} and BREEAM rating systems to review the input of BMS in green certification. It was revealed that the building management system has the most impact on the Energy section. IEQ, water, and sustainable site are other sections that BMS is eligible to contribute furthermore. The next step of the research is to develop an assessment framework to evaluate the contribution of BMS in achieving the sustainable built environment.

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