



EARTHCHECK

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Since 2006, The Alto Hotel on Bourke has been using EarthCheck to benchmark its performance. All aspects of the hotel's design and operations reflect a genuine, strong commitment to environmental sustainability and hospitality excellence. Major achievements include:

Using only **126.8L of mains water** per guest night and achieving 92.3 points of the EarthCheck's water savings checklist

Renewable energy sources accounting for **47%** of total energy consumption, producing only 3 CO₂-e kg per guest night, (which is offset)

A **37% reduction** in the volume of **waste** sent to landfill, down to only 3.8 L per guest night

54% of the site's **solid waste** is recycled, reused or composted

THE ALTO HOTEL ON BOURKE, AUSTRALIA

The Alto Hotel on Bourke, in the heart of Melbourne, Australia was built in 2004-05 and is the first hotel in Melbourne's central business district to become fully certified using EarthCheck science.

The boutique 4-star hotel offers 50 hotel rooms including 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, a restaurant and bar, relaxation room, book exchange & library, car parking and free access to a nearby gym.

The Alto Hotel's philosophy is to look after the environment by carefully monitoring the impacts of its water and energy consumption and waste generation, while identifying ways to be more efficient and resource smart. Management strongly encourages the participation of all staff in finding innovative solutions.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

REDUCING THE USE OF FRESHWATER AND WASTEWATER GENERATION

Alto Hotel on Bourke is pushing the boundaries of best practice, using only 127L per guest night. The efficient use of water has been achieved through installing water saving fixtures, water harvesting, recycling and reducing laundry requirements.

Water efficient fixtures and practices:

Water flow from bathroom and kitchen taps reduced from **9L/min to 6L/min**

Water flow from showers reduced from **9L/min to 8L/min**

Guests are encouraged to have towel changing every alternate day and linen every third day rather than daily. An offsite commercial laundry is used to achieve greater water efficiencies

Water harvesting and recycling:

Two slim line 1500L tanks in the hotel's car park capture rainwater and deliver it to the toilets servicing the public areas, such as restaurant, bar and staff rooms. Rain water is also used for cleaning and garden watering

Pipes have been connected to the site's air conditioning to capture condensate water to feed the rainwater tanks

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Energy efficient building design:

Alto Hotel has been built with energy efficiency in mind using only **35.7 MJ per guest night**. The design and choice of environmentally sustainable materials ensure the hotel achieves optimal efficiency from space heating and cooling, with minimal heat or cold ingress into the building.

INITIATIVES:

Using a 'staggered stud' wall system which allows for through-going thermal bats

Using several layers of floor covering to improve insulation, including a 5mm layer of REGUPOL (recycled car tyres) and 'yellow tongue' compressed chip board

Using heat reflecting 13mm thick glass and double glazing on all windows

Other initiatives to optimise space heating and cooling include installing 6 star energy efficient air conditioning systems. The systems rely on 'inverter' technology, 'R-410 A' refrigerant gas and 'sensor technology', which turns the units off when there is no one in the room. All these innovations deliver a much greater efficiency and help to save on energy and reduce CO2 emissions.



Alto Hotel is particularly concerned about the impact of its GHG emissions. To reduce their carbon footprint the hotel purchases 100% of its electricity from wind farms via the main grid, which makes up 47% of the site's total energy consumption. To offset the remaining gas and diesel emissions The Alto supports an emissions reduction project in India that burns waste agricultural products such as rice husks to produce power, mitigating potential emissions while also providing a new source of income for the local community.

The Alto Hotel fully understands that all viable options to reduce energy consumption and emissions must first be implemented, offsetting only those emissions that are unavoidable. To this end, several other initiatives have been implemented.

Other energy efficiency initiatives:

Installing an electric car recharging station and providing free parking for hybrid and electric cars to promote their use

Encouraging walking and public transport to guests and staff ahead of taxis with 80% of the hotel's employees using public transport to travel to work

Using an instantaneous hot water system that heats water on demand, avoiding use of gas to store hot-water and using natural gas which emits one third the greenhouse gas emissions compared to equivalent electrical hot water systems

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT

The Alto Hotel spends 4.1% of its net income range of local community activities including:

INITIATIVES:

Cash donations to World Vision and the Australian Red Cross

Mentoring students from a local college

Training of Hospitality College house-keeping students in sustainable hospitality

Regional community appeals

Bush-fire appeals

Tree planting with Rotary International

Plans to develop a tourism business for the Balibo community in East Timor

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING TO REDUCE WASTE

The Alto Hotel follows the principals of the waste minimisation hierarchy looking first at ways to eliminate and reduce waste before exploring recycling options. The amount of waste-to-landfill generated on the site is now down to only **3.8L per guest night**.

INITIATIVES:

Elimination of all plastic bottles for toiletries, replacing them with refillable, pump-action dispensers

Preference to suppliers with products that are made from recycled content, are recyclable and biodegradable. For example bio-degradable bin-liners, pens and key cards made from corn starch.

Refilling printer ink cartridges, and requiring all the hotel's office paper, toilet tissues and paper towels are made from recycled paper

Offering a book exchange at the hotel's library to reduce paper waste

SOLID WASTE RECYCLING

Having explored options to reduce its waste Alto Hotel has sought to **reuse or recycle 90%** of its waste through initiatives such as:

INITIATIVES:

All bulk containers are returned to suppliers

Onsite composting, in an 'aerobin', of all green waste from the central kitchen for use on staff's personal gardens

Recycling all deep-frying oils from the central kitchen into bio-fuel

Reuse of all card-board boxes by the local post-office

Recycling by specialist companies of all paper, glass, plastics and fluorescent globes

A commendably high rate of recycling has been achieved by providing dual chamber bins in guest rooms, separate recycling and general waste bins in the office and 5 bins in the kitchens for general waste, paper, plastics, cans and oils. All waste management training is conducted through the senior manager and via TAFES and universities.