



ALTO HOTEL ON BOURKE

www.altohotel.com.au

Alto Hotel is located within a short walk of Melbourne's main convention and exhibition venues including the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Etihad Stadium, Crown Casino and Pier 14. Alto provides a truly sustainable hotel option for small and large events and is a multi-award winner for excellence in guest service and standards, as well as sustainability. Based on current benchmark data for Green Globe, the hotel is the most energy efficient of any hotel in Melbourne – it is benchmarked as using the least water and energy per guest in Melbourne (see table below).

Alto is carbon neutral (as audited by the Carbon Reduction Institute) so when calculating carbon, event organisers can enter 'zero' for all accommodation and services used at Alto Hotel. Most recently, Alto Hotel won the award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism at the 2009 Victorian Tourism Awards.

Alto Hotel on Bourke has made a commitment to a resource smart, environmental sustainable policy. With the help of guests, suppliers, a committed management team and staff, plus a significant capital investment, the property can make meaningful energy, resource and waste savings, therefore minimising its environmental impact. To stay true to Alto Hotel's commitment, all energy, water and waste accounts are submitted for benchmarking by Green Globe – an independent assessor.

Water Management

- All showers have water flow restrictors to no more than eight litres per minute (and guests still compliment the showers)
- All vanity and kitchen basin faucets have a maximum flow of six litres per minute
- Washing machines are front loading, delivering higher water efficiency than top loading models
- All toilets have 'AAA Water' rating using as little as three litres per half flush
- Rain-harvesting tanks are used for public toilet cisterns, gardening and general cleaning purposes.

Waste Management

- Recyclable rubbish is separated in the same manner as in residential homes – by glass, paper, plastics, metal and general waste
- In-room recycling, where the guest is given the opportunity to contribute by sorting their material into recycling and non-recycling via twin compartment bins
- Use of a biodegradable garbage bag
- On site compost bin for all organic (vegetable) waste from the restaurant kitchen

- Used cooking oil is collected and recycled into biodiesel
- All plastic bottles for toiletries have been eliminated with practical and stylish refillable pump-action toiletry dispensers installed
- All toiletries used are biodegradable with some being organic.

Energy Management

Electricity

- Alto Hotel purchases only Green Earth Electricity, which is generated from carbon neutral sources (i.e. wind) ensuring minimal green house gas emissions, saving approximately 300 tonnes of emissions per year
- Rooms have energy saving key-card switch that turns off lighting and air conditioning upon leaving
- 95% of all lighting uses energy efficient globes of no more than 15 watts per globe
- 3.8 watt LED globe replaced 35 watt globe for bedside lamp, providing energy saving in excess of 89%.

Air-conditioners

- Air-conditioning plant uses inverter technology, which has a 6 star energy rating
- In room air conditioning units use movement sensors so if there is no movement, it switches off.

Gas

Hot water is heated 'on demand'. The energy savings of this is substantial; despite having 57 bathrooms and a commercial kitchen, Alto Hotel only holds 630 litres of hot water in reserve as compared with a normal suburban household of 200 litres.

| | Worldwide average for hotels | Best practice | Alto Hotel | Exceed best practice |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| Energy: mega joules | 240 | 160 | 36.3 | 78% |
| Water: litres | 500 | 350 | 123.1 | 64% |
| Waste: litres | 14 | 9 | 3.9 | 60% |

Strategies Implemented

Best Practice

Based on data submitted to Green Globe and its assessment report, Alto Hotel exceeds best practice targets by at least 60% as demonstrated in the previous table that is based on 2008/09 data. All figures are an average per guest night.



Carbon Neutral

Alto Hotel has reduced its carbon footprint to an average of 13.5 kg per room, compared to the standard allowance of 24-26 kg as set by the Sustainable Tourism CRC. The remaining carbon has then been offset via the Carbon Reduction Institute.

Management initiatives

- Promotional pens and guest key cards are made from biodegradable cornstarch
- Use only recycled paper, including printed items, toilet paper and tissues
- Have a library with book exchange, enhancing the opportunity for books and magazines to be reused
- Newspapers are complimentary but delivered only to rooms that request it
- Option is available for guests not to have their towelling and linen changed daily
- Recycle print cartridge and by-products
- Recycle used light globes to remove harmful by-products from landfill
- Use organic, biodegradable and non hazardous chemicals and material wherever possible
- Continually research and test products and concepts for continued improvement in Alto Hotel's environment program.

Accolades Received

- Environmentally Friendly rating (AAA Tourism)
- Green Globe Certified – Silver
- Grow Me the Money (Victorian state-wide sustainability program) – Platinum member
- Waste Wise Hotel – Sustainability Victoria
- Winner 2009 Victorian Tourism Awards – Sustainable Tourism
- Finalist 2009 & 2008 – Premier's Sustainability Award
- Winner 2009 & 2008 – Sustainable Tourism, HMAA Awards for Excellence
- Winner 2006 – Community Responsibility, Environment, Business3000 Awards.

Other

Design and construction

- Windows open, which helps minimise air conditioning use, as opposed to sealed rooms that require 24 hour air conditioning
- All windows are double-glazed. Windows that face north and west also have a 10 mm thick Pilkington 'green glass' pane. This lowers heat penetration in summer and restricts heat loss in winter. An added bonus is noise abatement
- Double insulated 16 mm thick plasterboard and staggered stud placement walls assist in temperature and noise attenuation between rooms
- Hebel blocks used in new construction areas have three times the insulation quality of brick veneer construction and use one quarter of the raw material for an equivalent concrete construction
- Room doors are sealed to minimise temperature and noise attenuation.

Transport

- Free car parking for guests arriving in hybrid or electric vehicles
- Free recharging of electric vehicles with 100% Green Earth electricity (renewable resources)
- Airport transfers in a hybrid limousine available – fee applies
- Encourage guests to walk to most major attractions that are within a 2-10 minute walk of the hotel
- Encourage use of public transport including airport shuttle bus, trams and trains, all located within 50-100 metres of the hotel.

Suppliers

Where practical, Alto Hotel sources products and collaborates with businesses that practise environmental sustainability. Also wherever possible, products such as food and beverages are sourced within the closest proximity to the hotel's location to minimise transport requirements and the associated environment impact.

Green Team

All initiatives are team efforts, implemented by the Alto Green Team and supported by all staff.