



EARTHCHECK

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THE EMPORIUM, BRISBANE

The Emporium Hotel, located in Fortitude Valley, is arguably Brisbane's sexiest luxury boutique hotel. Established in 2007, the self-rated 5-star hotel hosts 102 guest suites, a specialty cocktail bar, event and function facilities, the gourmet 'Belle Epoque' French patisserie, as well as a spa, sauna, and rooftop heated lap pool.

Situated in the centre of Brisbane, the hotel is in close proximity to a range of popular shopping precincts, local parks, the Brisbane River, a broad range of restaurants and cafes, and many tourist attractions.

The Emporium Hotel is dedicated to minimizing its impact on the environment through a number of initiatives relating to the hotel's operation such as the comprehensive monitoring of the hotel's water and energy consumption, and waste generation, the overall impact on the environment can be identified and reduced.

The design is an eclectic fusion of styles – a combination of antiques pieces from around the world, custom made retro-look furniture and the very latest in audio visual technology. In the cocktail Bar the grand onyx bar is overlit by an antique German chandelier, originally from a castle in Europe, home to elegant debutante balls.

Another stunning feature of the bar is an exquisite stained glass wall, originally a Parisian shopfront crafted more than 100 years ago. The piece was exported to Buenos Aires where it was used in as a window in a mansion, before being flown to Australia by an antiques dealer, and catching the eye of the Emporium Hotel.

There are currently no laws or regulations in place in Australia that apply to the environmental performance of luxury hotels. However, the Emporium has been using EarthCheck to benchmark and assess its environmental performance since 2008.

The hotel became Bronze Benchmarked in 2010, with high standards in performance indicators, accomplishing above Best Practice levels in a number of these indicators.

Significant successes include:

Potable Water Consumption is **96%** better than Best Practice

The Waste Recycling was **4.2 points** better than Baseline Level

Energy Consumption is **41.5%** better than Best Practice

70% of employees live within 20km of the hotel, showing above baseline Community Commitment.

Pesticide, Cleaning products and Chemical products usage are above best practice level which is an excellent achievement and highly commended.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

REDUCING THE USE OF FRESHWATER AND WASTEWATER GENERATION

Water consumption is an important resource for hotel management, as it is imperative for food preparation, cleaning services, recreation and hygiene. Using data collected over the year 2008:

The Emporium Hotel exceeded Best Practice in water consumption levels, consuming only **25.5L per guest per night**.

The water saving rating is well above Baseline level at **74.8 points**, only 5.2 points under Best Practice level.

WATER EFFICIENT FIXTURES & PRACTICES

In addition to installing water-efficient fixtures such as tap flow regulators, dual flush toilets and water saving shower heads that retain existing pressure, The Emporium conducts monthly leak inspections and maintenance checks of all water outlets.

In-room flyers encouraging guests to carry out water efficient practices such as reduced shower and tap time, and minimal laundry service usage, are displayed prominently in every room.

Staff members are also encouraged to participate in water-saving measures.

Guests are given the option of having their room serviced every second day to reduce water consumption. They also are given the option of reusing bed linen and bath towels in the guestrooms, at their discretion.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS

Energy efficiency is of high priority to The Emporium, as lowering consumption can both improve environmental performance and produce significant cost savings. Many practices have ensured excess energy is not wasted.

Extremely low energy consumption figures were achieved by the hotel, measuring at **41.5% better than Best Practice at 143.4 MJ per guest per night**.

CO₂ production was estimated at **42.2kg per guest per night**.

ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING DESIGN

The entire Emporium hotel building is suitably insulated (e.g., double-glazed windows) while separate air conditioning units have been installed in each guest room (set at 23-24°C), as opposed to a central system. This ensures air

conditioning is only used when the relevant room is occupied.

This versatile system is also set up to enable air conditioning and lighting to be switched off in unused public areas.

Natural light is utilized through the use of large windows, skylights, and the position of desks to maximize natural lighting.

OTHER ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES

The Hotel's maintenance team conducts daily checks of the swimming pools, appliances and other facilities, while room audits are conducted every two months.

All concerns or faults are promptly reported to engineering so that issues can be addressed immediately. If electrical fittings need to be replaced, energy efficiency alternatives are purchased wherever possible.

When it comes to lights and electrical equipment/appliances such as computers, guests and staff are encouraged to switch them off when they're not being used. Even an appliance's stand-by option is avoided, as this alone can save up to 50% of daily energy use.

Hot water tanks are completely drained and flushed every six months in order to reduce the buildup of scale and deposits that reduce efficiency.

SOLID WASTE RECYCLING

Ti Tree Bioenergy, an eco-conscious treatment facility that converts waste to clean energy, manages the waste that is produced by the hotel.

Approximately 90% of methane gases produced by the waste sent to their



facilities is captured and converted into electricity, which is then fed into the electricity grid.

Capturing these gases prevents their potentially dangerous release into the atmosphere while simultaneously allowing the waste to decompose at a faster rate.

The Emporium Hotel's waste recycling checklist rating was above Baseline level at **54.2 points**.

WASTE INITIATIVES INCLUDE

Office paper, glass and plastic are processed through a comprehensive recycling system while old towels are used as rags, partially used toilet rolls are used in staff areas, and newspapers, telephone books, printer cartridges and kitchen oil are regularly collected and recycled by a local organization.

Newspapers are provided only on request and the provision of information to guests is done through guestroom TV screens rather than printed brochures.

Food is stored in reusable plastic containers while printer/fax/photocopier cartridges are sent to Planet Ark for recycling.

Staff also ensure printer settings are set to double-sided printing, resulting in minimal amount of paper waste.

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING TO REDUCE WASTE

The purchasing of sustainable products assists in reducing waste and a negative impact on the environment.

The Emporium exceeds EarthCheck standards in the use of cleaning and pesticide products which are potentially destructive.



The cleaning products checklist rating was **85.7 points, 5.7 points better than Best Practice**. Furthermore, the pesticide products checklist rating was **97.2 points, 17.2 points better than Best Practice**.

The hotel has achieved these standards by implementing the use of environmentally friendly products that do not contain destructive chemicals.

Additionally, the hotel uses minimal paper products to reduce any unnecessary consumption. The paper products checklist rating was **54.2 points, 4.2 points better than Baseline level**.

The Emporium's suppliers are encouraged to operate in an environmentally friendly manner.

The hotel aims to only use representatives from responsible companies, and these suppliers are encouraged to be active participants in providing sustainability. The Emporium also encourages their suppliers to develop a sustainability policy.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & SUPPORT

The hotel has demonstrated community commitment through various initiatives. Local employment of staff is high, with 70% of staff living within 20km of the hotel; **10% better than Best Practice**.

The community contributions checklist rating was **65.2 points, 5.2 points above baseline level**.

The hotel achieved these results through supporting and educating both clients, employees, and the broader community on their environmental objectives and initiatives.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES INCLUDE

To continually engage staff in the Hotel's sustainable initiatives, management provides 'Green Tips' presentations on a weekly basis. In fact, sustainability objectives and goals are incorporated into the daily course of business so they are seen as part of The Emporium's fabric rather than a marketing project.

Information on environmental initiatives also is communicated to guests through engaging in-room collateral and TV screens while staff, guests and the local community are educated on ways in which they also can contribute to environmental sustainability.

Local products and services are regularly sourced, provided they do not compromise environmental and social standards.

Finally, staff members are encouraged to engage in local communities and support grassroots projects.

