



CARBON REDUCTION INSTITUTE

Mercure Meetings

The Carbon Reduction Institute is proud to partner with Mercure Hotels for the first nation-wide carbon neutral offering from a major hotel chain.

Mercure Hotels and the Carbon Reduction Institute have joined together for the new Mercure meetings offering, specifically the calculation and offsetting of emissions produced by the services provided by Mercure hotels across Australia for the Mercure meetings offering.

The Carbon Reduction Institute calculates the emissions produced by the following services provided by Mercure hotels:

- Heating and Cooling
- Lighting
- Projectors and AV system
- Food and beverage (cooking/refrigeration and embodied emissions)

The emissions from these services are calculated based on the running sheet of the event using published life cycle data, an input/output analysis of the Australian economy and emissions factors provided by the Department of Climate Change.

The Mercure Hotel then pays for these emissions to be offset using carbon credits that are certified Greenhouse Friendly™ by the Australian Department of Climate Change. This ensures that when an offset is purchased it represents an emission reduction which is real, permanent and goes further than business as usual.

Currently the offsets being used are sourced from a waste facility in Western Australia that diverts the organic part of domestic waste from landfill and into compost instead. The decomposition of organic waste in land fill produces methane which is 21 times more potent than CO₂.

Besides the greenhouse reduction savings additional benefits from this project include reduced volume of landfill and the production of high quality soil from the compost which can also result in a reduced need for chemical fertiliser.

What is not included in the emissions calculation is the travel by attendees to get to and from the event as well as any material brought in by the event organisers (eg. brochures, notes, etc.). The emissions from these sources (especially attendee travel) are often the largest contributor to the total emission of an event therefore the event should not be referred to as carbon neutral unless these emissions have been calculated and offset.