



EARTHCHECK

BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT

ACCOMMODATION - VACATION HOTEL BENCHMARKING

LA CABANA BEACH & RACQUET CLUB

NOORD, ARUBA



REPORT DATE: 2 August 2011

Benchmarking Data Collection Period: 1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010

The planet deserves more than half measures

OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** was undertaken against EarthCheck benchmarking indicators and checklists developed for EarthCheck and listed below. ¹ They have been carefully selected to track performance in key areas of environmental and social performance impact. Their outcomes which are presented in this report are used by EarthCheck to evaluate whether the operation has reached the standards necessary to pass the benchmarking requirements, as stated in the EarthCheck Benchmarking Policy. ²

	Indicator Measure (Benchmark)
1 Policy	Policy is produced and in place
2 Energy	Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night)
	Green Power (%) ³
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO ₂ -e / Guest Night)
3 Water	Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night)
	Water Savings Rating (Points)
	Recycled / Captured Water (%) ³
4 Waste	Waste Sent to Landfill (L / Guest Night)
	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
	Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) ³
5 Community	Community Commitment (%)
	Community Contributions Rating (Points)
6 Paper	Paper Products Rating (Points)
7 Cleaning	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
8 Pesticides	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

¹ Refer to the EarthCheck Sector Benchmarking Indicator (SBI) document for more information. For frequently asked questions (FAQs) about benchmarking or specific help, please log on to 'My EarthCheck' and visit your EarthCheck Benchmarking software.

² To meet the requirements stipulated in the EarthCheck Company Standard, the benchmarks for all the submitted EarthCheck indicators need to be at, or better than, the Baseline level. Baseline and Best Practice performance levels are set with reference to the type of activity (registered sector/s) and appropriate national and international data which take into account social, geographical and climatic impacts.

First-time benchmarking operations that fail to meet the minimum requirements (Baseline performance or better) for up to two submitted EarthCheck indicators (with a third indicator within 10% of the Baseline level), will be permitted to pass benchmarking. The operation is however, given a maximum of 12 months to improve performance in at least one of the indicators to Baseline performance or better. If on the next submission this is not achieved without substantiated evidence that the situation was beyond the control of the operation (e.g., occurrence of a natural disaster), then the right to use the appropriate EarthCheck logo will be withdrawn.

As a standard policy, all EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed, along with the performance levels which operators have to achieve in order to meet the requirements of the Company Standard. This review takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices and equipment, and is used to update where appropriate Baseline and Best Practice levels.

³ These indicators are for guidance only and do not affect the overall benchmarking evaluation.

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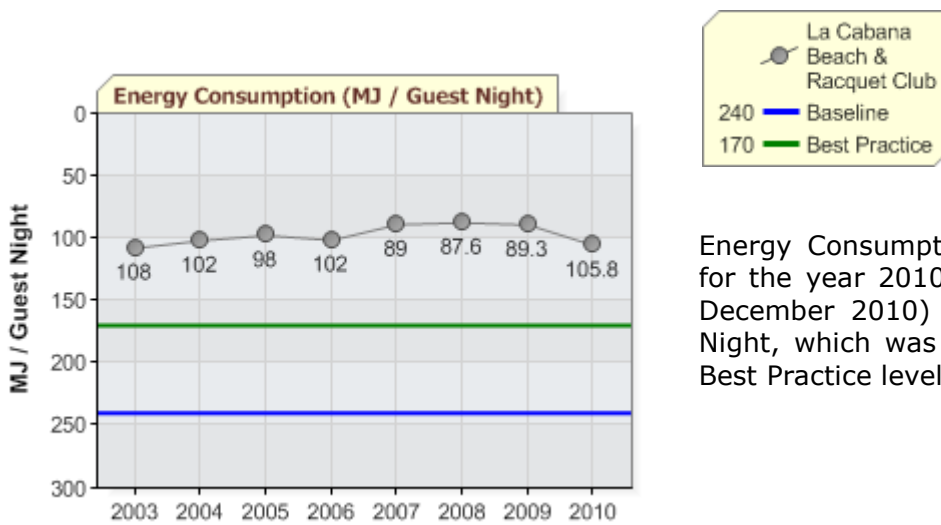
ACCOMMODATION - VACATION HOTEL PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Current performance: Below Baseline * At or above Baseline ✓ At or above Best Practice ★

1. Policy ★

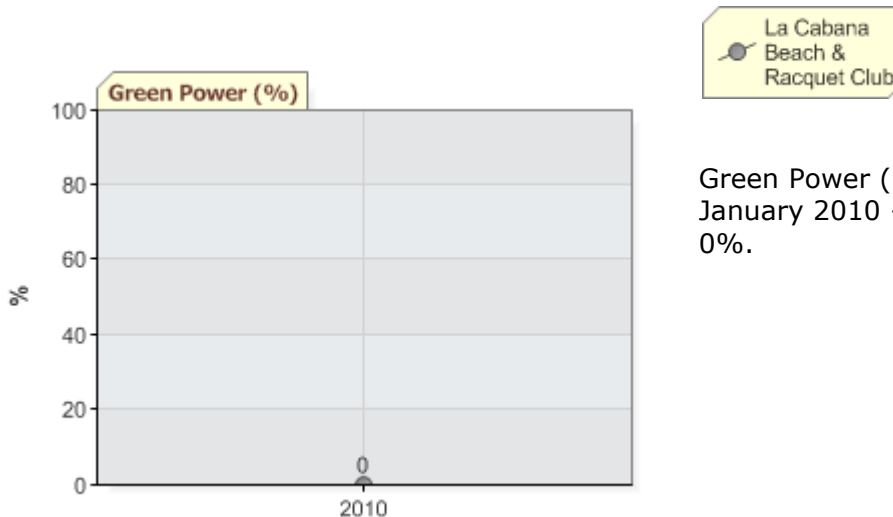
2. Energy

Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night) ★



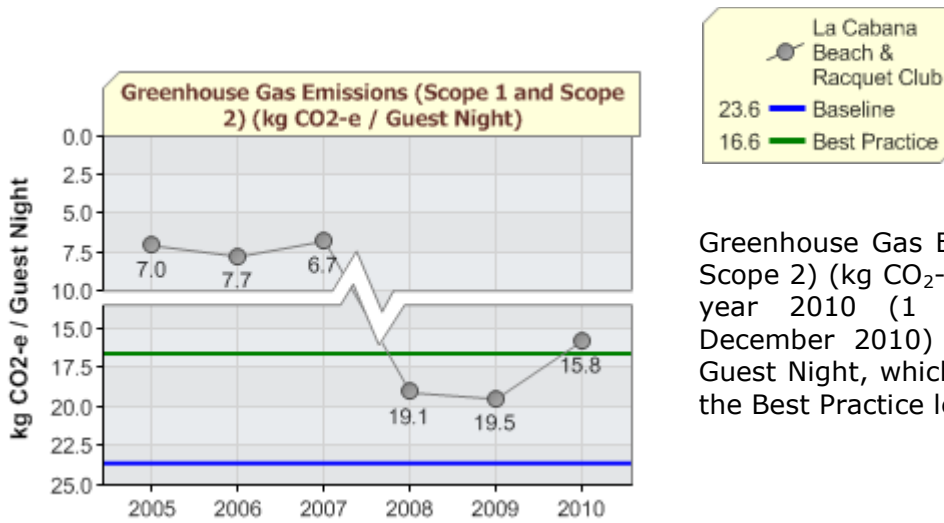
Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 105.8 MJ / Guest Night, which was 37.8% better than the Best Practice level.

Green Power (%)



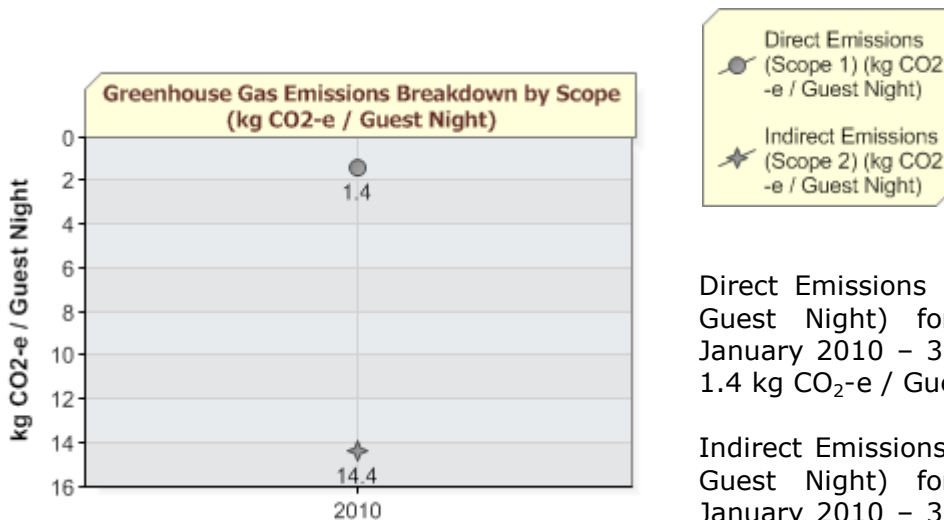
Green Power (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 0%.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night) ★



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 15.8 kg CO₂-e / Guest Night, which was 4.8% better than the Best Practice level.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night)



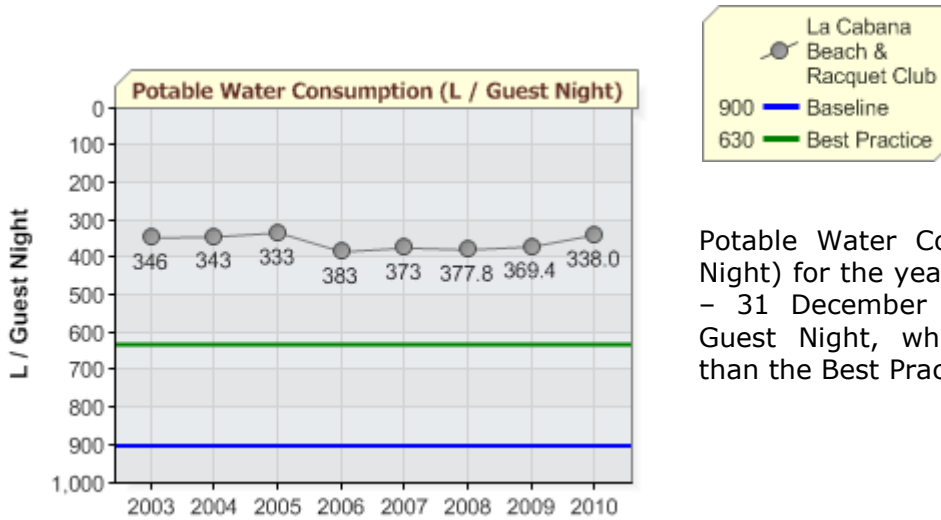
Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 1.4 kg CO₂-e / Guest Night.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 14.4 kg CO₂-e / Guest Night.

Direct Emissions (Scope 1)								
Stationary Fuel Combustion								
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	
Diesel	400	litres (L)	14551.2	1.1	0.003	0.003	1.1	
LPG	279655	litres (L)	6861198.4	432.9	0.7	0.2	433.9	
subtotal			6875749.6	434.0	0.7	0.2	435.0	
Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)								
Diesel	5000	litres (L)	181890.0	13.5	0.01	0.2	13.7	
subtotal			181890.0	13.5	0.01	0.2	13.7	
TOTAL			7057639.6	447.5	0.7	0.4	448.7	
Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)								
Purchased Electricity								
Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO ₂ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	CH ₄ Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	N ₂ O Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO ₂ -e)
7294120	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	0	OTHER LATIN AMERICA	26258832.0	4259.8	224.1	44.8	4528.7
subtotal				26258832.0	4259.8	224.1	44.8	4528.7
TOTAL				26258832.0	4259.8	224.1	44.8	4528.7
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)								
GRAND TOTAL				33316471.6	4707.3	224.9	45.2	4977.4

3. Water

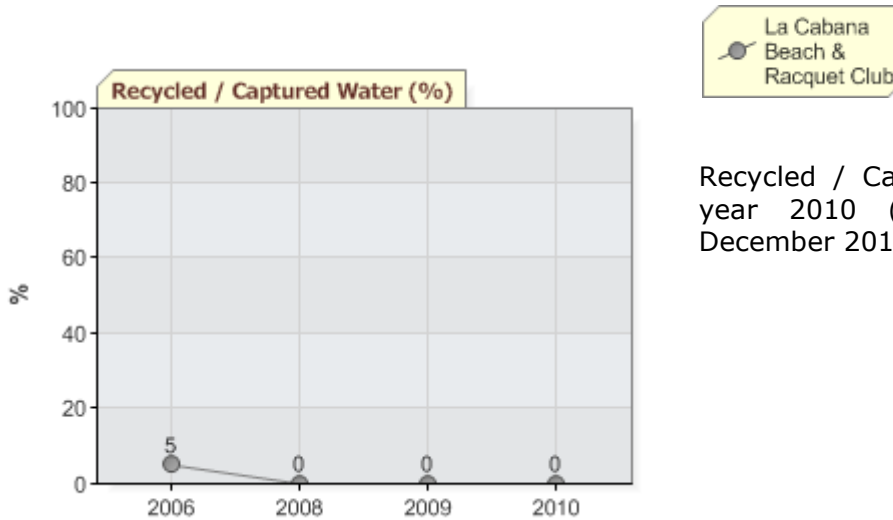
Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night) ★



Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 338.0 L / Guest Night, which was 46.3% better than the Best Practice level.

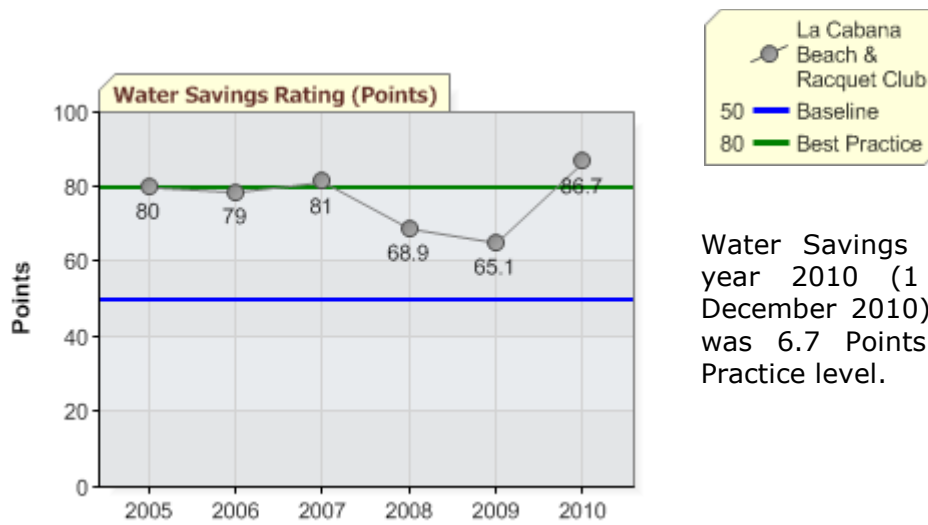
Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)
106432	cubic metres	106432.0 kL
Totals:		106432.0 kL

Recycled / Captured Water (%)



Recycled / Captured Water (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 0%.

Water Savings Rating (Points) ★

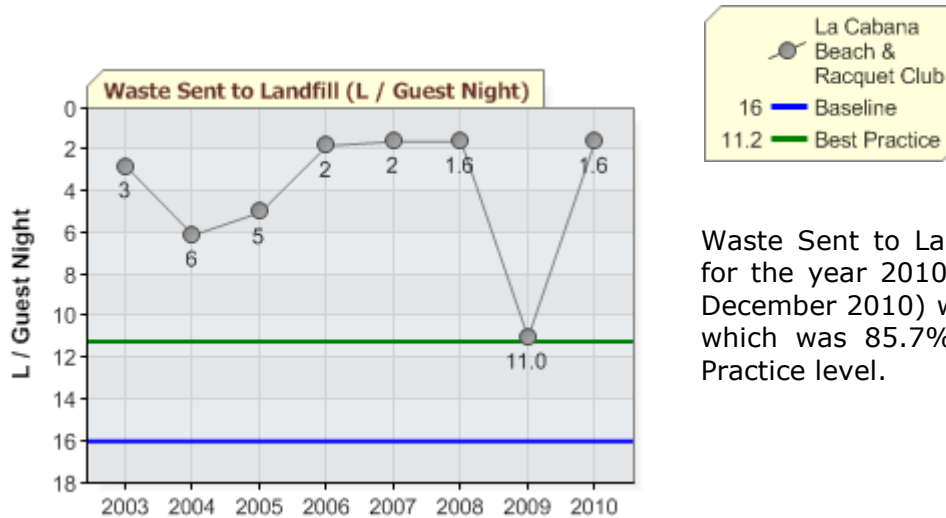


Water Savings Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 86.7 Points, which was 6.7 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Water Savings Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Water Savings Rating (Points)
Check for leaks	Every month	73.9 Points
Low/dual flush toilets	100%	100.0 Points
Low flow tap fittings	100%	100.0 Points
Low flow shower fittings	100%	100.0 Points
Water sprinklers used after dark	100%	100.0 Points
Minimal irrigation landscaping	60-79%	73.9 Points
Use of recycle/grey/rain water	20-39%	58.8 Points
	Overall Rating:	86.7 Points

4. Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (L / Guest Night) ★



Waste Sent to Landfill (L / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 1.6 L / Guest Night, which was 85.7% better than the Best Practice level.

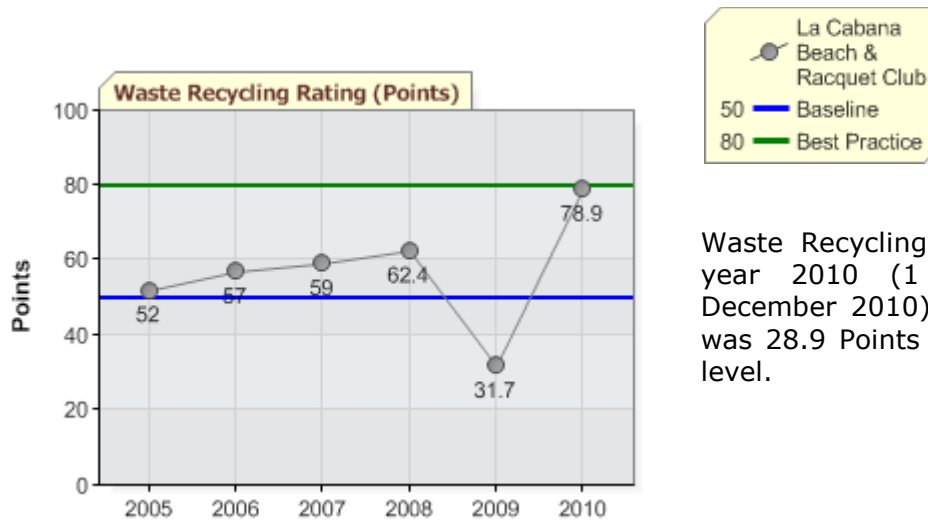
Quantity	Unit	Waste Sent to Landfill (m ³)
322.48	tonnes (compacted)	496.1 m ³
	Totals:	496.1 m³

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 30.0%.

Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ✓

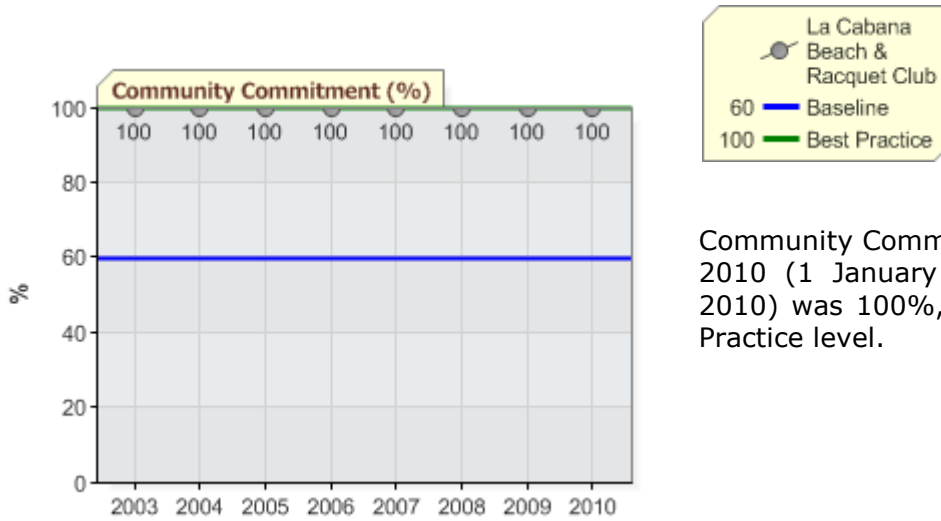


Waste Recycling Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 78.9 Points, which was 28.9 Points better than the Baseline level.

Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	80-99%	88.9 Points
Paper/card	80-99%	88.9 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	60-79%	73.9 Points
Other metals (non-ferrous)	60-79%	73.9 Points
Plastics	60-79%	73.9 Points
Rubber	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
Green waste	60-79%	73.9 Points
	Overall Rating:	78.9 Points

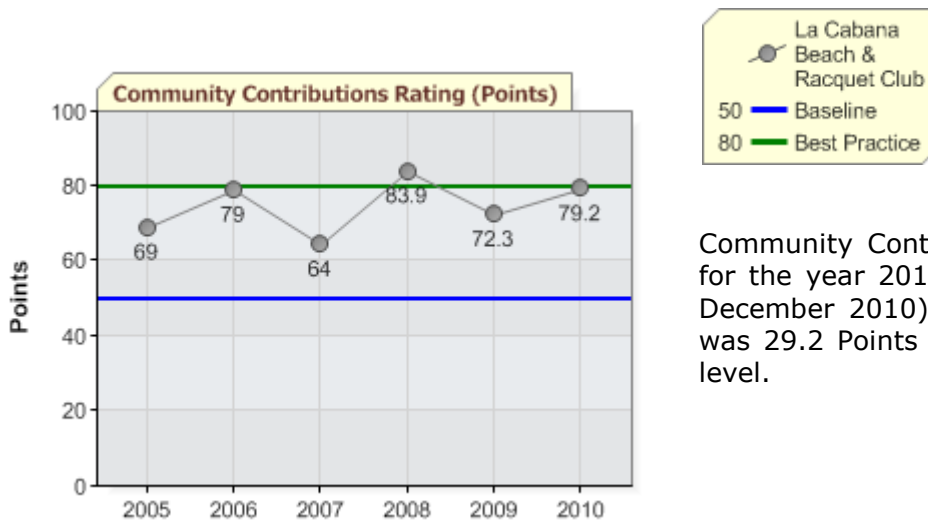
5. Community

Community Commitment (%) ★



Community Commitment (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 100%, which was at the Best Practice level.

Community Contributions Rating (Points) ✓

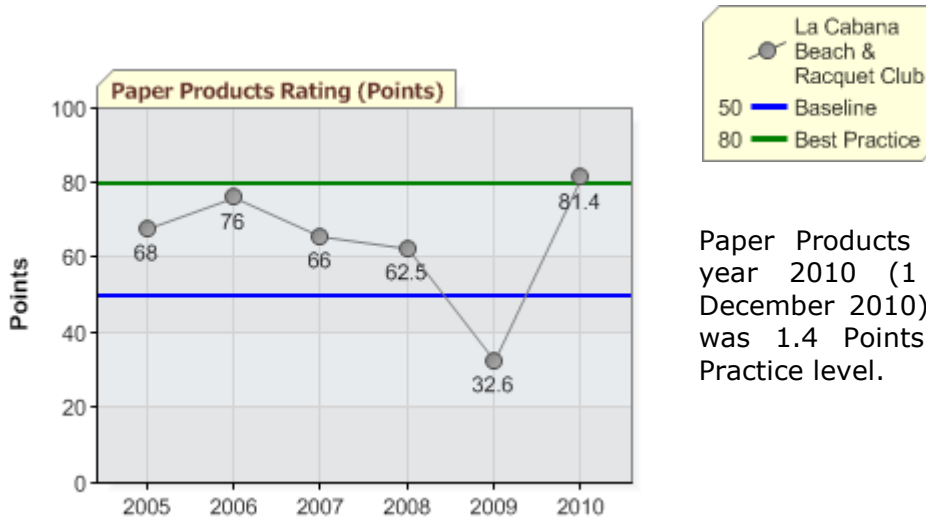


Community Contributions Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 79.2 Points, which was 29.2 Points better than the Baseline level.

Community Contributions Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Community Contributions Rating (Points)
Net income spent on sustainability programs	8.0% - 9.9%	88.9 Points
Perishable purchased goods that are of local origin	Relevant / Not Available	50.0 Points
Service contracts given to local contractors	80-99%	88.9 Points
Staff received training on sustainability issues	80-99%	88.9 Points
	Overall Rating:	79.2 Points

6. Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points) ★

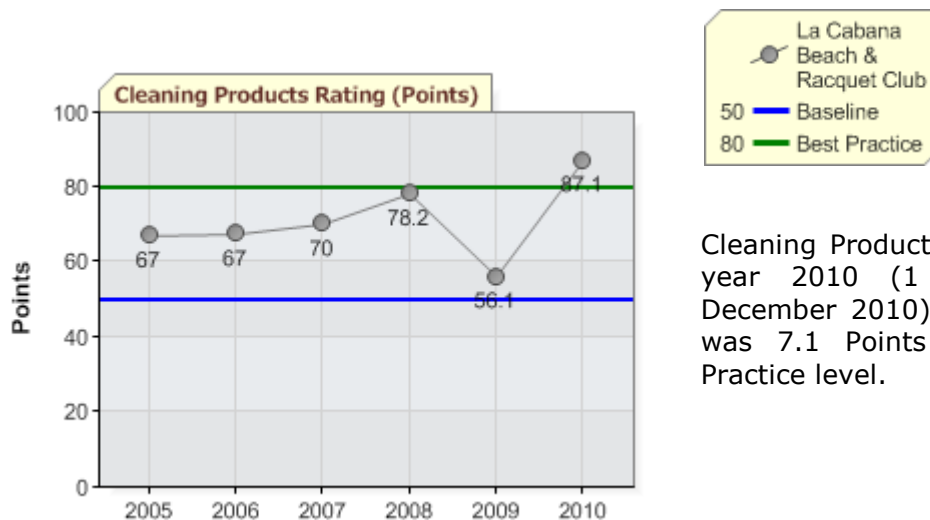


Paper Products Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 81.4 Points, which was 1.4 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Paper Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Paper Products Rating (Points)
Office paper	80-99%	88.9 Points
Serviettes	60-79%	73.9 Points
Tissues	60-79%	73.9 Points
Toilet tissue	80-99%	88.9 Points
Paper towels	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
	Overall Rating:	81.4 Points

7. Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ★

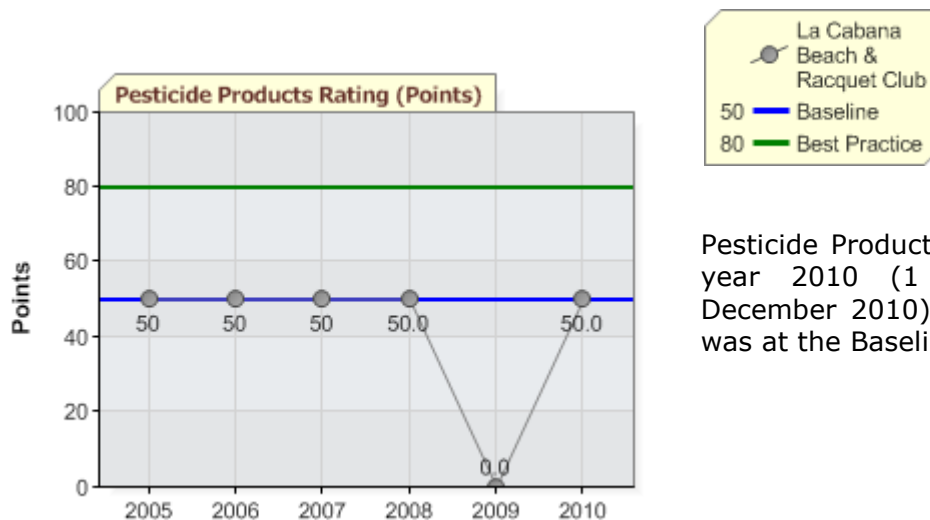


Cleaning Products Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 87.1 Points, which was 7.1 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Cleaning Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
Hard floor cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Carpet cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Interior surface cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
External surface cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Glass cleaners	80-99%	88.9 Points
Detergents	40-59%	65.1 Points
Personal hygiene	100%	100.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	87.1 Points

8. Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points) ✓



Pesticide Products Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 50.0 Points, which was at the Baseline level.

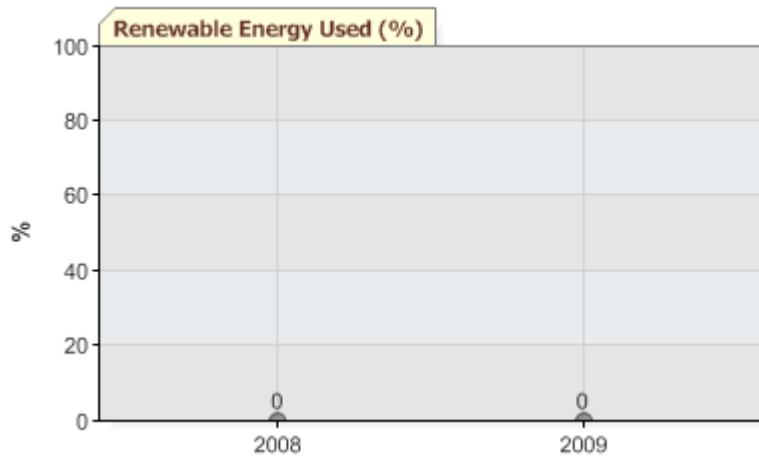
Pesticide Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)
Weed killers	Relevant / Not Available	50.0 Points
Fungal killers	Relevant / Not Available	50.0 Points
Rodent killers	Relevant / Not Available	50.0 Points
Insect killers	Relevant / Not Available	50.0 Points
	Overall Rating:	50.0 Points

HISTORIC BENCHMARKING INDICATORS

1. Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy % is no longer a supplementary indicator; it is included here for historical reference.

Renewable Energy Used (%)



*The supplied data has been compiled by **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** in the prescribed manner, authorised by a senior executive of the company and submitted for an annual assessment.*

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congratulations, **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** has passed the requirements to be recognised as an EarthCheck Benchmarked Accommodation - Vacation Hotel.

In addition to having a Sustainability Policy in place, eleven of the assessed EarthCheck indicators are at or above the Baseline level. From the benchmarking data provided, eight indicators, *Energy Consumption, Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2), Potable Water Consumption, Water Savings Rating, Waste Sent to Landfill, Community Commitment, Paper Products Rating* and *Cleaning Products Rating*, are at or above the Best Practice level, which is an excellent achievement to be very highly commended.

Improvements in all the EarthCheck indicators will not only help the environment, but can also help reduce operational costs. Due to the positive commitment that **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** has demonstrated to the environment, the assessors are confident that they can maintain their very high standards and remain a leader in environmental performance. In line with EarthCheck Policy this would enable the **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** to continue to meet the benchmarking requirements of the EarthCheck program.

APPENDIX

BENCHMARKING POLICY

A member benchmarking for the 8th time (and subsequent assessments) is not permitted to fail any EarthCheck™ indicators (excluding supplementary EarthCheck™ indicators).

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding *Energy Consumption* as the submitted figure of 20% Green Power was different than expected. The **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** advised:

"If the utility company is getting 20% of it is total production from a windmill farm (0% CO2 emission) is that not Green Energy?"

The Benchmarking Assessors provided the following definition of Green Power in response:

Some tourist and travel operations may also choose to purchase additional electricity from offsite renewable sources through a "green power" agreement with their electricity supplier. This is where the supplier guarantees to provide a percentage of the site's purchased electricity with electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

The Green Power indicator applies to specific agreements negotiated between the member and their energy supplier to supply a set amount of energy from renewable sources. It does not refer to the amount of renewable energy sources already used by the supplier in grid distribution.

The Benchmarking Assessors have updated the Green Power percentage to 0%. This results in a revised total *Energy Consumption* of:

Stationary Fuel Combustion

Fuel Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	Total Emission Estimate (t) (t)
Diesel	400	Litres	14 551.2	1.1
LPG	279 655	Litres	6 861 198.4	433.9

Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)

Fuel Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	Total Emission Estimate (t) (t)
Diesel	5 000	Litres	181 890	13.7

Purchased Electricity

Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	Total Emission Estimate (t) (t)
7 294 120	kWh	0	Other Latin America	26 258 832	4 528.7

These sources produced a total of 33 316 471.6 MJ which equates to 105.8 MJ per Guest Night. Total *Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)* was 4 977 371.9 kg which equates to 15.8 kg per Guest Night.

POTABLE WATER CONSUMPTION

The benchmarking Assessors sought clarification as to whether the onsite laundry facilities were shared with any other external organizations. The **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** advised:

"Laundry it is an error in the answer we do not share our laundry with other hotels it is used 100% for our own organization"

WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL

The submitted value of 322.48 tonnes (322 480 kg) of waste (specified by the operator as compacted waste) has been converted into a volume by using the standard conversion of: 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m³ or 1.53846 L (i.e. 322 480 kg x 0.00153846 = 496.1 m³ or 496 100 L). (If the waste is uncompacted, then the standard conversion is: 1 kg = 0.00333333 m³ or 3.33333 L).

This equates to 1.6 L per Guest Night.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS RATING

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification regarding the *Community Contributions Rating* as the indicator measures of Net income spent on sustainability programs and Perishable purchased goods that are of local origin were selected as Not Relevant/Not Available. The **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** advised:

"Net income information why should we put it available? We do spend a lot on new efficient equipment replacing old equipments etc. education, training of our associates, sponsoring environmental projects, sponsoring community projects.

We live on a small Island where perishable goods (everything) is being imported (not relevant for Aruba)"

The Benchmarking Assessors provided the following information about sustainability programs:

The training and projects listed above are all initiatives that could be included for the measure 'Net income spent on sustainability programs'. For further examples please see below.

Examples:

This component refers to the percentage of Net Income spent on

- sustainability programs (i.e. EarthCheck)
- sustainability initiatives,
- donations in-kind (e.g. staff members volunteering work hours) donated to sustainability programs that are of environmental, social or economic benefit to communities.
- Examples of sustainability programs may include but not limited to: Certification Programs, tree planting, charitable monetary donations, providing assistance for the under-privileged, clean up days and carbon sequestration programs etc.

The **La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club** provided the following table in response:

Community Contributions Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating
Net income spent on sustainability programs	8.0% - 9.9%
Perishable purchased goods that are of local origin	Relevant / Not Available
Service contracts given to local contractors	80-99%
Staff received training on sustainability issues	80-99%

The Benchmarking Assessors have updated the *Community Contributions Rating* as advised. This results in:

Initial Rating: 88.9 points

Revised Rating: 79.2 points



EARTHCHECK

Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck

SUMMARY OF SUPPLIED BENCHMARKING DATA

Activity Measures

Guest Nights	314913
Area Under Roof	1

Supplied Benchmarking Data

Energy

Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night)

Supplied	33316471.6 MJ
Calculated	105.8 MJ / Guest Night
Baseline	240 MJ / Guest Night
Best Practice	170 MJ / Guest Night
Difference	37.8% better than the Best Practice level

Green Power (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night)

Supplied	4977371.9 kg CO ₂ -e
Calculated	15.8 kg CO ₂ -e / Guest Night
Baseline	23.6 kg CO ₂ -e / Guest Night
Best Practice	16.6 kg CO ₂ -e / Guest Night
Difference	4.8% better than the Best Practice level

Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night)

Supplied	448671.6 kg CO ₂ -e
Calculated	1.4 kg CO ₂ -e / Guest Night

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (kg CO₂-e / Guest Night)

Supplied	4528700.3 kg CO ₂ -e
Calculated	14.4 kg CO ₂ -e / Guest Night

Water

Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night)

Supplied	106432000.0 L
Calculated	338.0 L / Guest Night
Baseline	900 L / Guest Night
Best Practice	630 L / Guest Night
Difference	46.3% better than the Best Practice level

Water Savings Rating (Points)

Supplied	86.7 Points
Calculated	86.7 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	6.7 Points better than the Best Practice level

Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

Waste

Waste Sent to Landfill (L / Guest Night)

Supplied	496123.1 L
Calculated	1.6 L / Guest Night
Baseline	16 L / Guest Night
Best Practice	11.2 L / Guest Night
Difference	85.7% better than the Best Practice level

Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Supplied	78.9 Points
Calculated	78.9 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	28.9 Points better than the Baseline level

Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied	30.0%
Calculated	30.0%

Community

Community Commitment (%)

Supplied	100%
Calculated	100%
Baseline	60 %
Best Practice	100 %
Difference	at the Best Practice level

Community Contributions Rating (Points)

Supplied	79.2 Points
Calculated	79.2 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	29.2 Points better than the Baseline level

Paper

Paper Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	81.4 Points
Calculated	81.4 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	1.4 Points better than the Best Practice level

Cleaning

Cleaning Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	87.1 Points
Calculated	87.1 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	7.1 Points better than the Best Practice level

Pesticides

Pesticide Products Rating (Points)

Supplied	50.0 Points
Calculated	50.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	at the Baseline level

DETERMINATION OF BASELINE AND BEST PRACTICE LEVELS

General

The values for the Baseline and Best Practice levels for each indicator are derived from extensive worldwide research into available and appropriate case studies, industry surveys, engineering design handbooks, energy, water and waste audits, and climatic and geographic conditions.

National and regional data for per capita energy use, greenhouse gas and other emissions, wastes to landfill and water consumption, where available provide background data for normalisation of the expected performance values for per customer or employee, and/or overall performance of an enterprise being benchmarked. They are used to gauge the regional or national situation and environmental performances that an enterprise is based in, and hence what are reasonable levels to expect the enterprise to achieve.

A benchmarking result at, or above, the Baseline level demonstrates to all stakeholders that the enterprise is achieving above average performance. A result below the Baseline level indicates that an enterprise can and should carry out actions that will make beneficial improvements in performance.

Consideration of Climate

A major determinant of energy consumption in some sectors, primarily those centred on buildings such as accommodation, visitor centres and administration offices will be the dominant climatic conditions in which the enterprise is located. In general, to maintain the same level of indoor comfort, enterprises operating in hot or cold climates will consume more energy than those in temperate climates.

Similarly, it is recognised that in certain sectors a major determinant of potable water consumption will be the climate in which an enterprise is located, in particular those with large grounds and/or significant water-based facilities or activities. That is, enterprises located in hot climates are more likely to consume more potable water than equivalent ones located in cooler climates. Factors that are likely to lead to a higher level of potable water consumption, for example in the accommodation sector, include increased evaporation rates of swimming pools, personal bathing and irrigation demands of grounds. In consideration of this factor, Baseline and Best Practice levels can vary in relation to country location.

Waste Sent to Landfill

The benchmark indicator used for Waste Sent to Landfill is given in litres as waste bins are usually calibrated by volume, and it has been found that the majority of operations do not have access to the weight of material disposed of. However, if a weight is supplied, standard factors are used to convert from weight (e.g., kilograms (kg)) to volume (e.g., cubic metres (m³) or litres (L)). These are: 1 kg (uncompacted waste) = 0.00333333 m³ or 3.33333 L and 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m³ or 1.53846 L.

Operations should make note of the level of compaction when submitting data for assessment by EarthCheck.

Review of Performance Levels

The Baseline and Best Practice performance levels for EarthCheck indicators are continuously reviewed and are likely to change over time. This review by a team of international experts, takes into account "business-as-usual" changes in practices, equipment and facilities, as well as regulations and general improvement trends in performance and procedures. This review is used to update the levels of Baseline and Best Practice, and provides useful feedback to the user of the indicators.

The list below summarises the basic generic rules used to determine Baseline and Best Practice levels for EarthCheck indicators.

- If relevant enterprise sector specific case studies are not available for a type of activity in a designated region, then national averages will be used to ascertain the Baseline level. In this case, the Best Practice level will be set at a minimum of 30% better performance than the Baseline.
- If case study or national data are not available for a specific indicator, then the first enterprise that benchmarks will have its results set as 15% better than Baseline (i.e., half way between Baseline and Best Practice).