



EARTHCHECK

# BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT REPORT

ACCOMMODATION - BUSINESS HOTEL BENCHMARKING

**RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL SYDNEY**  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



**REPORT DATE: 3 August 2011**

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

*The planet deserves more than half measures*

## OVERVIEW

This annual assessment of **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** was undertaken against EarthCheck benchmarking indicators and checklists developed for EarthCheck and listed below. <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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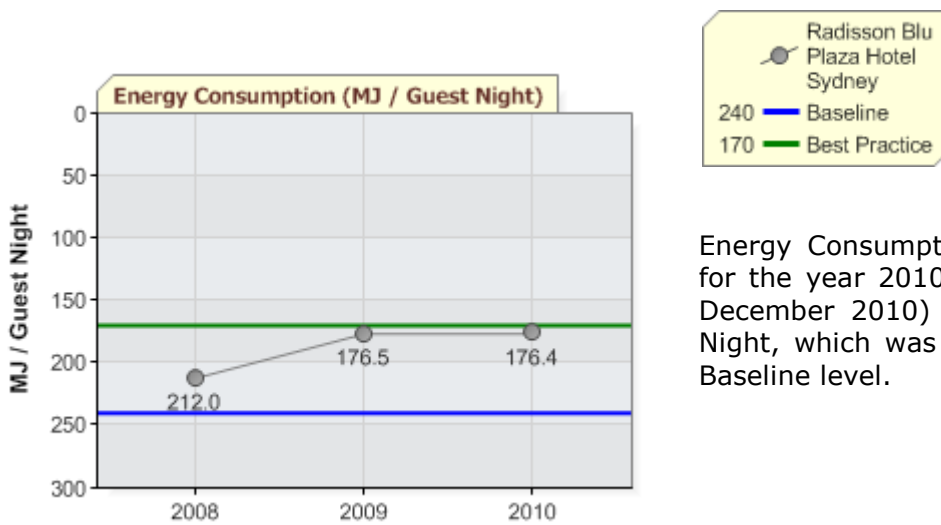
## ACCOMMODATION - BUSINESS HOTEL PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

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

### 1. Policy ★

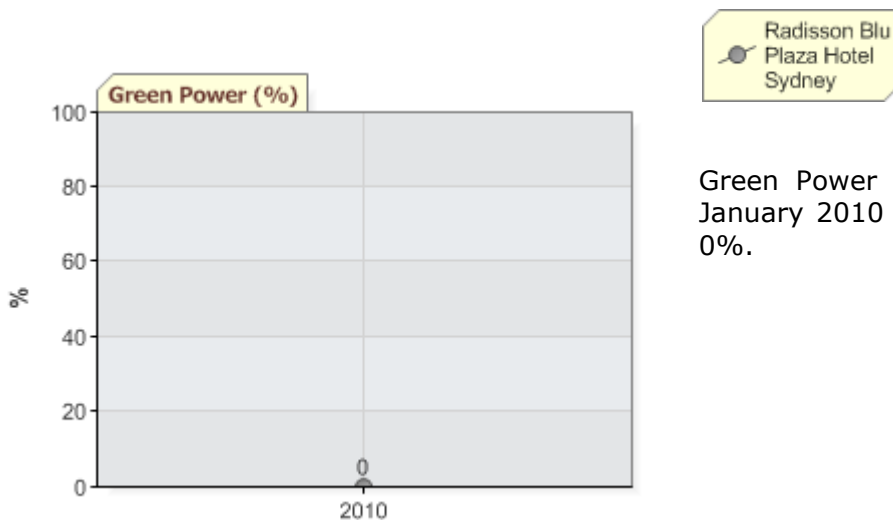
### 2. Energy

#### Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night) ✓



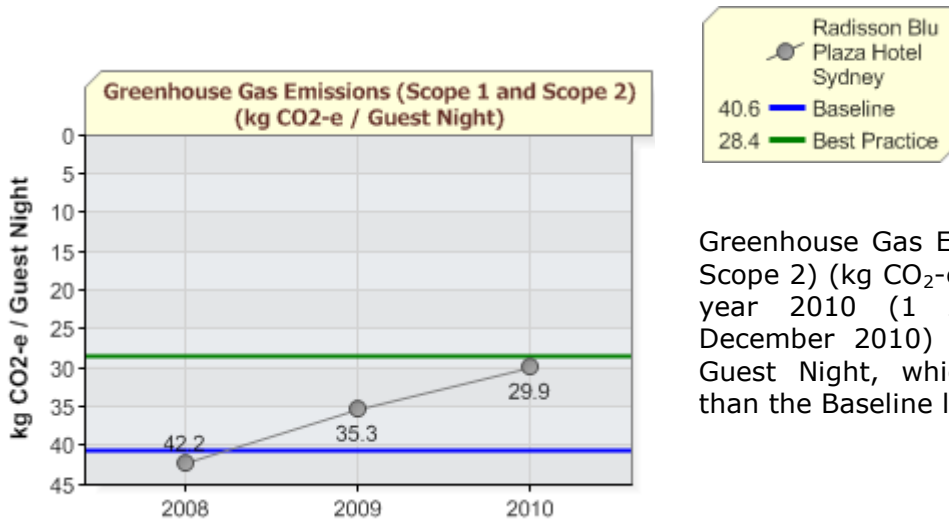
Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 176.4 MJ / Guest Night, which was 26.5% better than the Baseline level.

#### Green Power (%)



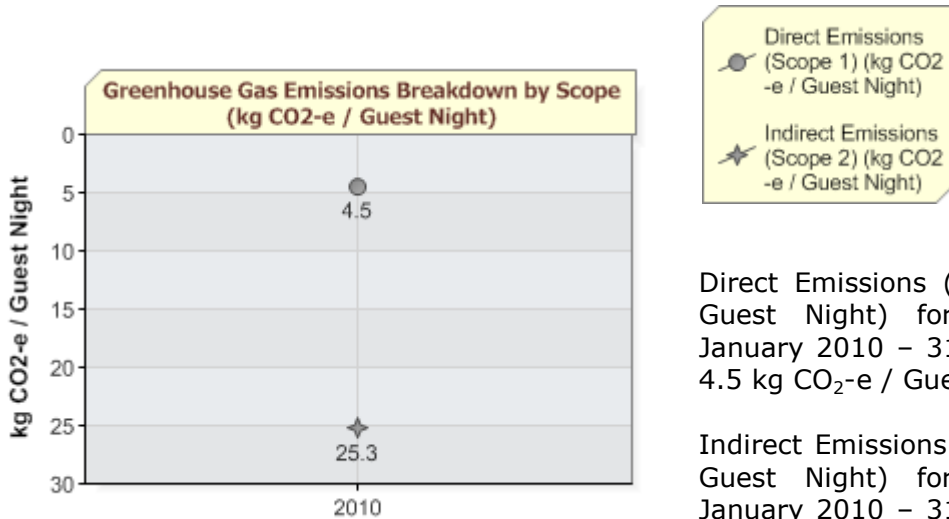
Green Power (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 0%.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night) ✓**



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 29.9 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night, which was 26.4% better than the Baseline level.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown by Scope (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night)**



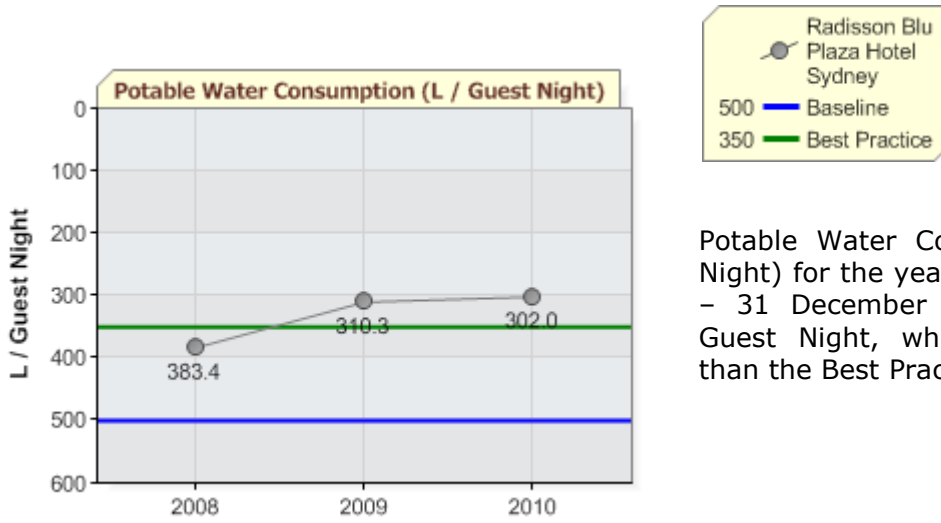
Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 4.5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night.

Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 25.3 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night.

<b>Direct Emissions (Scope 1)</b>								
<b>Stationary Fuel Combustion</b>								
Type	Quantity	Unit	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	CH <sub>4</sub> Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	N <sub>2</sub> O Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	
Natural gas	13185.407	GJ	13185407.0	789.8	1.3	16.3	807.5	
subtotal			13185407.0	789.8	1.3	16.3	807.5	
<b>Mobile Fuel Combustion (road)</b>								
Motor gasoline	1000	litres (L)	34200.0	2.3	0.02	0.08	2.4	
subtotal			34200.0	2.3	0.02	0.08	2.4	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>13219607.0</b>	<b>792.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>809.9</b>	
<b>Indirect Emissions (Scope 2)</b>								
<b>Purchased Electricity</b>								
Quantity	Unit	% Green Power	Provider	Energy Consumption (MJ)	CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	CH <sub>4</sub> Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	N <sub>2</sub> O Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Total Emission Estimate (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
5086857.19	Kilowatt hour (kWh)	0	Australia, NSW	18312685.9	-	-	-	4527.3
subtotal			18312685.9	-	-	-	4527.3	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>18312685.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4527.3</b>	
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2)</b>								
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>31532292.9</b>	<b>792.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>5337.2</b>	

### 3. Water

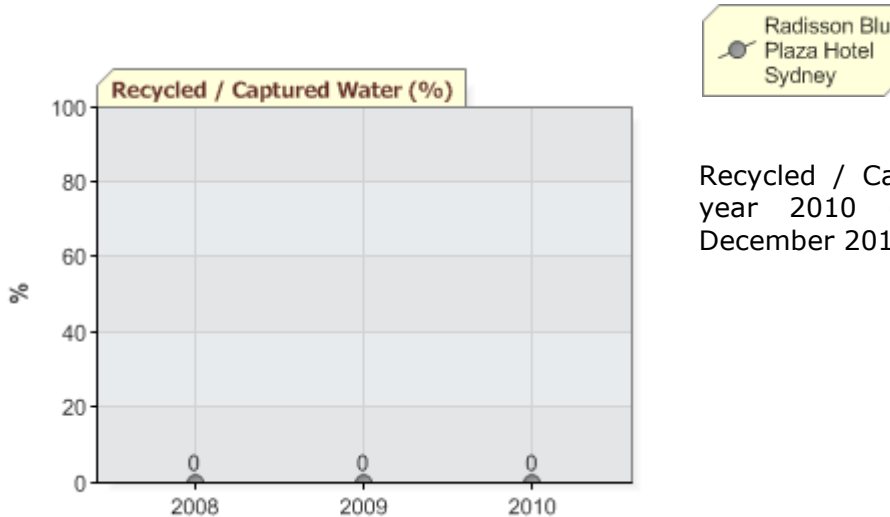
#### Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night) ★



Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 302.0 L / Guest Night, which was 13.7% better than the Best Practice level.

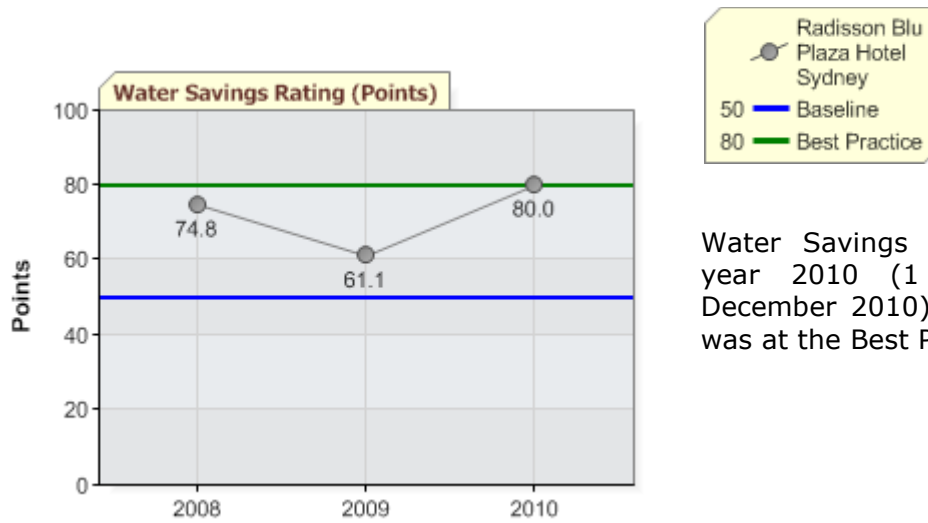
Quantity	Unit	Potable Water Consumption (kL)
53983	kilolitres (kL)	53983.0 kL
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>53983.0 kL</b>

#### Recycled / Captured Water (%)



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

## Water Savings Rating (Points) ★

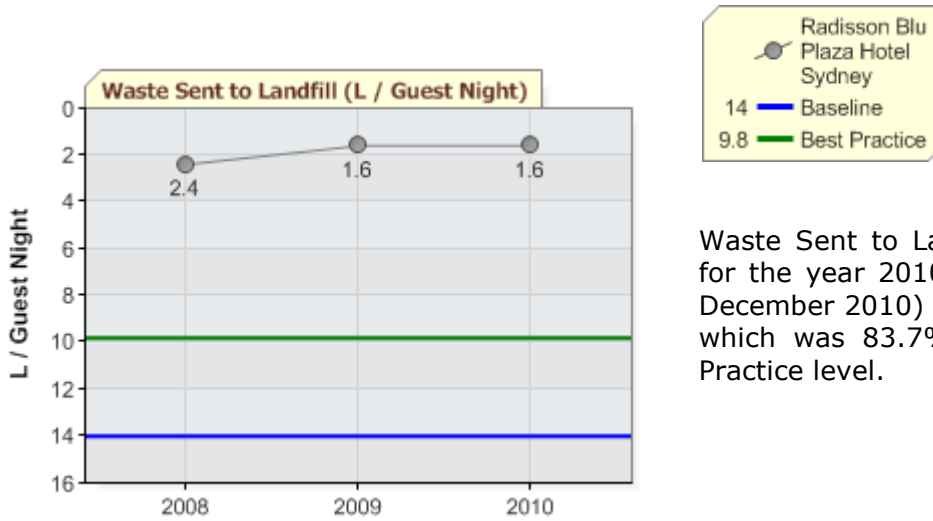


Water Savings Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 80.0 Points, which was at the Best Practice level.

Water Savings Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Water Savings Rating (Points)
Check for leaks	Every week	100.0 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	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
Minimal irrigation landscaping	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
Use of recycle/grey/rain water	0%	0.0 Points
	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>80.0 Points</b>

## 4. Waste

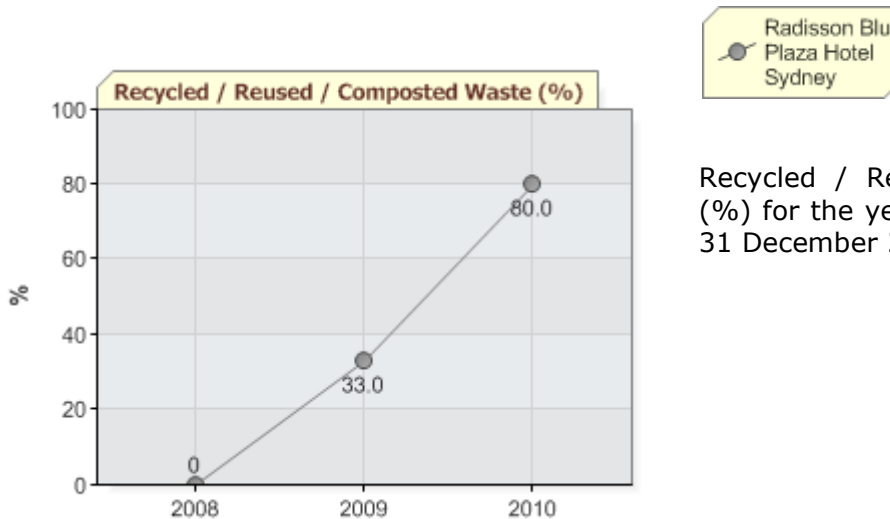
### Waste Sent to Landfill (L / Guest Night) ★



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 83.7% better than the Best Practice level.

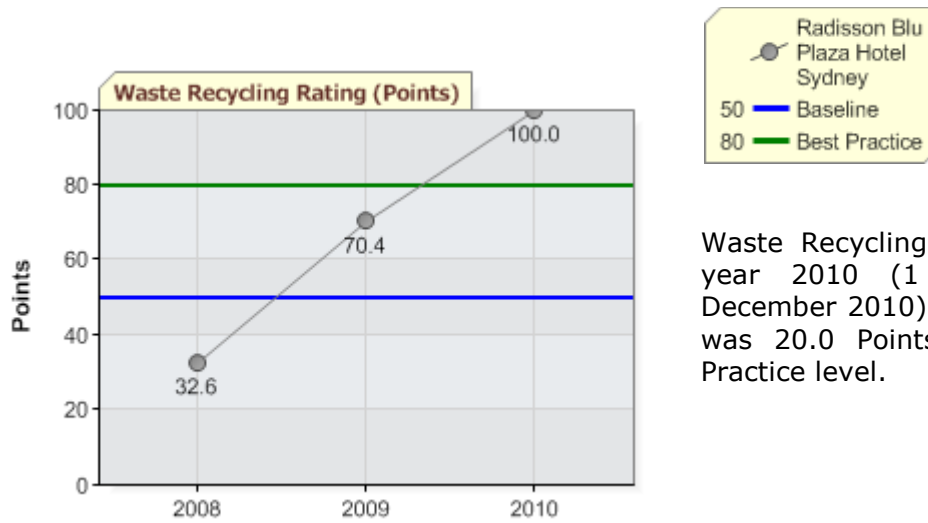
Quantity	Unit	Waste Sent to Landfill (m <sup>3</sup> )
286.4	cubic metres	286.4 m <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>286.4 m<sup>3</sup></b>

### Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)



Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 80.0%.

## Waste Recycling Rating (Points) ★

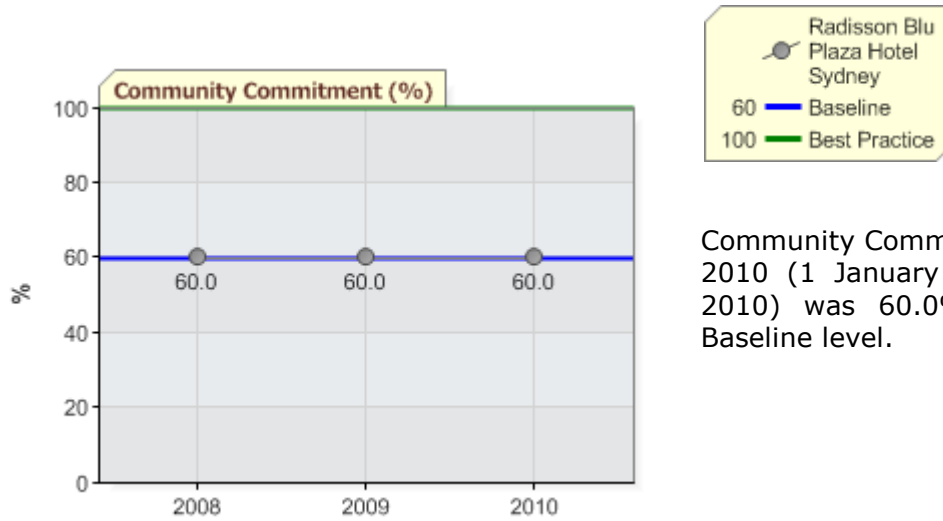


Waste Recycling Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Waste Recycling Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Waste Recycling Rating (Points)
Glass	100%	100.0 Points
Paper/card	100%	100.0 Points
Iron & steel (ferrous metals)	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
Other metals (non-ferrous)	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
Plastics	100%	100.0 Points
Rubber	Not Relevant / Not Available	-
Green waste	100%	100.0 Points
	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>100.0 Points</b>

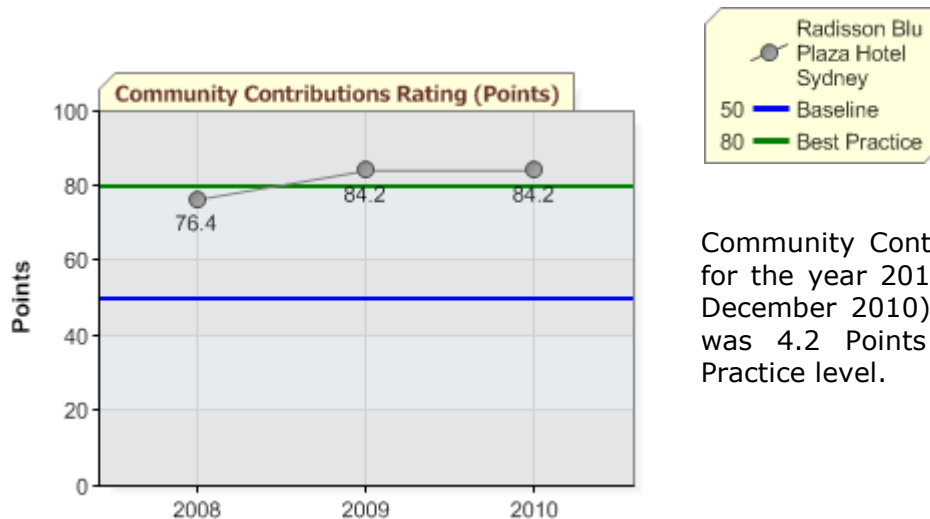
## 5. Community

### Community Commitment (%) ✓



Community Commitment (%) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 60.0%, which was at the Baseline level.

### Community Contributions Rating (Points) ★

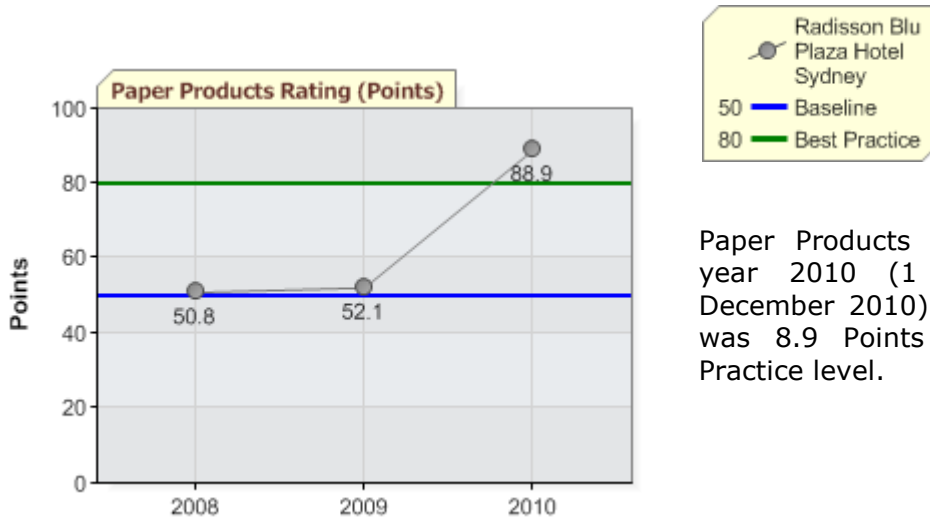


Community Contributions Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 84.2 Points, which was 4.2 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Community Contributions Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Community Contributions Rating (Points)
Net income spent on sustainability programs	2.0% - 3.9%	58.8 Points
Perishable purchased goods that are of local origin	80-99%	88.9 Points
Service contracts given to local contractors	80-99%	88.9 Points
Staff received training on sustainability issues	100%	100.0 Points
	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>84.2 Points</b>

## 6. Paper

### Paper Products Rating (Points) ★

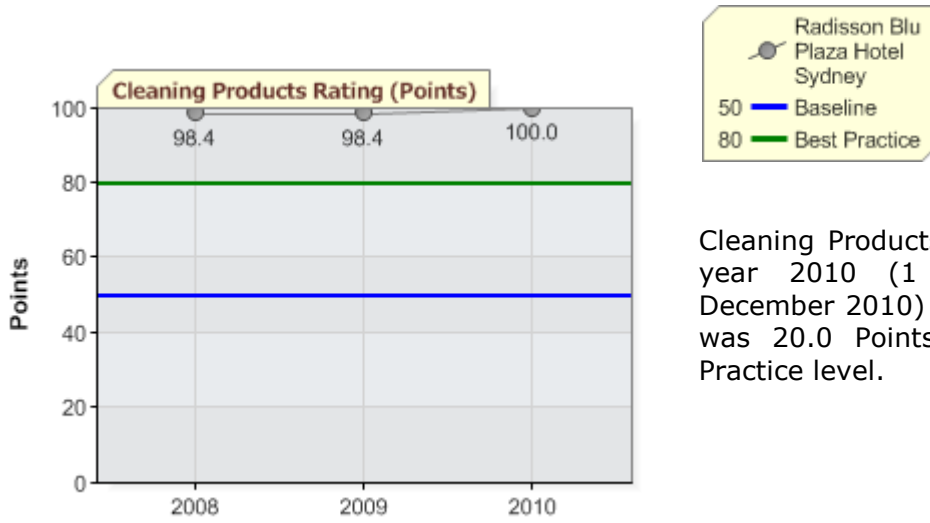


Paper Products Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 88.9 Points, which was 8.9 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Paper Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Paper Products Rating (Points)
Office paper	80-99%	88.9 Points
Serviettes	80-99%	88.9 Points
Tissues	80-99%	88.9 Points
Toilet tissue	80-99%	88.9 Points
Paper towels	80-99%	88.9 Points
	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>88.9 Points</b>

## 7. Cleaning

### Cleaning Products Rating (Points) ★

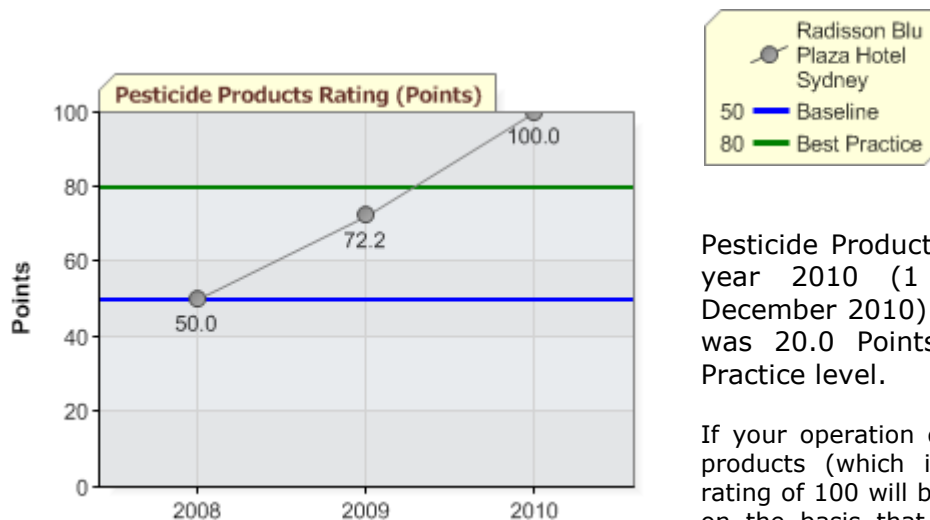


Cleaning Products Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

Cleaning Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Cleaning Products Rating (Points)
Hard floor cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Carpet cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Interior surface cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
External surface cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Glass cleaners	100%	100.0 Points
Detergents	100%	100.0 Points
Personal hygiene	100%	100.0 Points
	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>100.0 Points</b>

## 8. Pesticides

### Pesticide Products Rating (Points) ★



Pesticide Products Rating (Points) for the year 2010 (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010) was 100.0 Points, which was 20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level.

If your operation does not use any pesticide products (which is a positive outcome), a rating of 100 will be reported for this indicator on the basis that no use represents a Best Practice achievement.

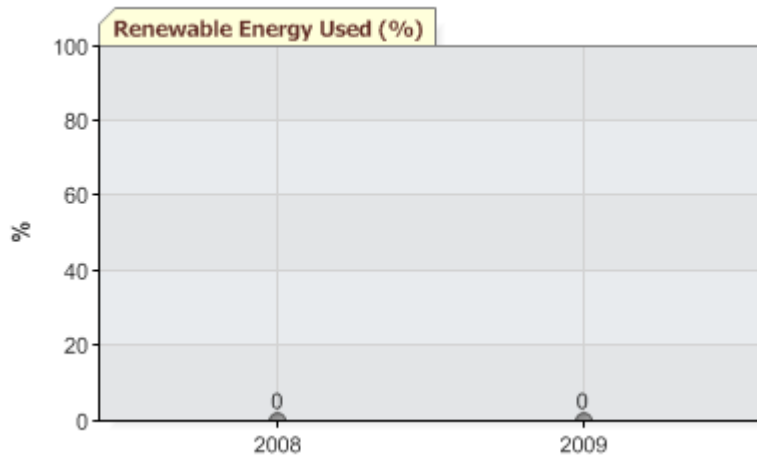
Pesticide Products Measures	Frequency / Percentage Rating	Pesticide Products Rating (Points)
Weed killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Fungal killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Rodent killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
Insect killers	Not Relevant / Not Available	100.0 Points
	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>100.0 Points</b>

# HISTORIC BENCHMARKING INDICATORS

## 1. Renewable Energy

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

### Renewable Energy Used (%)



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*The supplied data has been compiled by **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** in the prescribed manner, authorised by a senior executive of the company and submitted for an annual assessment.*

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congratulations, **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** has passed the requirements to be recognised as an EarthCheck Benchmarked Accommodation - Business 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, *Potable Water Consumption, Water Savings Rating, Waste Sent to Landfill, Waste Recycling Rating, Community Contributions Rating, Paper Products Rating, Cleaning Products Rating* and *Pesticide 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 **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** 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 **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** to continue to meet the benchmarking requirements of the EarthCheck program.

## APPENDIX

### BENCHMARKING POLICY

A member benchmarking for the 3rd time is not permitted to fall below Baseline in any EarthCheck™ indicators (excluding supplementary EarthCheck™ indicators), however, one (1) EarthCheck™ indicator may be within 10% of the Baseline level. **A member benchmarking for the 4th time (and subsequent assessments) is not permitted to fail any EarthCheck™ indicators (excluding supplementary EarthCheck™ indicators).**

### WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL

The Benchmarking Assessors sought clarification in regards to *Waste Sent to Landfill*, as the initial figure was greater than the previous assessment. **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** advised the following:

*"2008 and 2009 we used a large compactor, where all waste was put and this and compacted down, 2010 we have replaced the compactor with 660 litre bins which is not compacted. So we are no longer looking at weight but volume"*

**Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** also advised that the waste contractor, Cleanaway, compacts the waste post collection. Based on this information the Benchmarking Assessors have revised the figure for *Waste Sent to Landfill* using the compaction ratio of 1:4 provided by Cleanaway. The calculation of *Waste Sent to Landfill* can be seen below:

*Waste Sent to Landfill*

1145.59 m<sup>3</sup> (submitted figure)  
4 (compaction ratio)

= 286.4 m<sup>3</sup>

Please note that the compaction ratio used is an approximate ratio and **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** are encouraged to communicate with the waste contractor to identify a more accurate compaction ratio for the operation.

This equates to 1.6 L per Guest Night.



EARTHCHECK

**Benchmarks Assessed by EarthCheck**

# SUMMARY OF SUPPLIED BENCHMARKING DATA

## Activity Measures

Guest Nights	178759
Area Under Roof	20545

## Supplied Benchmarking Data

### Energy

#### Energy Consumption (MJ / Guest Night)

Supplied	31532292.9 MJ
Calculated	176.4 MJ / Guest Night
Baseline	240 MJ / Guest Night
Best Practice	170 MJ / Guest Night
Difference	26.5% better than the Baseline level

#### Green Power (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night)

Supplied	5337157.5 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Calculated	29.9 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e / Guest Night
Baseline	40.6 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e / Guest Night
Best Practice	28.4 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e / Guest Night
Difference	26.4% better than the Baseline level

#### Direct Emissions (Scope 1) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night)

Supplied	809854.6 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Calculated	4.5 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e / Guest Night

#### Indirect Emissions (Scope 2) (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e / Guest Night)

Supplied	4527302.9 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Calculated	25.3 kg CO <sub>2</sub> -e / Guest Night

### Water

#### Potable Water Consumption (L / Guest Night)

Supplied	53983000.0 L
Calculated	302.0 L / Guest Night
Baseline	500 L / Guest Night
Best Practice	350 L / Guest Night
Difference	13.7% better than the Best Practice level

### Water Savings Rating (Points)

Supplied	80.0 Points
Calculated	80.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	at the Best Practice level

### Recycled / Captured Water (%)

Supplied	0%
Calculated	0%

### Waste

#### Waste Sent to Landfill (L / Guest Night)

Supplied	286400.0 L
Calculated	1.6 L / Guest Night
Baseline	14 L / Guest Night
Best Practice	9.8 L / Guest Night
Difference	83.7% better than the Best Practice level

#### Waste Recycling Rating (Points)

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

#### Recycled / Reused / Composted Waste (%)

Supplied	80.0%
Calculated	80.0%

### Community

#### Community Commitment (%)

Supplied	60.0%
Calculated	60.0%
Baseline	60 %
Best Practice	100 %
Difference	at the Baseline level

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### **Community Contributions Rating (Points)**

Supplied	84.2 Points
Calculated	84.2 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	4.2 Points better than the Best Practice level

### **Paper**

#### **Paper Products Rating (Points)**

Supplied	88.9 Points
Calculated	88.9 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	8.9 Points better than the Best Practice level

### **Cleaning**

#### **Cleaning Products Rating (Points)**

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice level

### **Pesticides**

#### **Pesticide Products Rating (Points)**

Supplied	100.0 Points
Calculated	100.0 Points
Baseline	50 Points
Best Practice	80 Points
Difference	20.0 Points better than the Best Practice 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 (m<sup>3</sup>) or litres (L)). These are: 1 kg (uncompacted waste) = 0.00333333 m<sup>3</sup> or 3.33333 L and 1 kg (compacted waste) = 0.00153846 m<sup>3</sup> 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).