

green notes

writer Louise Renwick

Shifting into Green Gear

Sydney's Green Tomato Cars are joining the ranks of innovative green businesses who believe that we shouldn't pay a premium for eco-friendly alternatives. VIPS and celebrities are among smug clients on the road to greener travel – knowing that their time on the tarmac is supporting a variety of forestation and energy-saving projects. Join them without having to pay a celebrity price tag for the privilege by logging on to www.greentomatocars.com.au

Organic Chic

Pairing the caring and nurturing nature of the spa industry with products that are produced and distributed in an environmentally mindful way makes total sense. As the world-wide demand for eco-chic continues to grow, eco-sourcing firm Innovasians are supplying hotels and spas including the Shangri-La Hong Kong, Six Senses and Bandos Maldives with eco-textiles made from bamboo, toothbrushes and combs made from 100 percent biodegradable cornstarch and educating resorts on eco-friendly housekeeping and laundry practices to transform spa staff to eco-angels.

www.innovasions.com

Fresh Thinking

We all know that when it comes to caring for the environment everyone everywhere needs to do their bit – after all wherever we live or travel we're all living on the same earth and breathing the same air. Climatecare.org's nifty online calculator allows you to check out the carbon emissions from your travel, business and home in just three clicks. One more click can buy carbon-offset credits which help to fund sustainable energy projects around the world. For more on why and how to offset your carbon footprint check out www.climatecare.org

Paint the Town Green

The Lennox Hotel's 'eco-chic package' is advocating eco-friendly site seeing by offering guests sneakers and passes for Boston public transport when they book in. For a small charge the hotel also buys enough renewable energy to make up for the greenhouse gas and pollution produced during the guests stay, which they calculate comes to about 52 pounds of carbon dioxide per night. The use of non-VOC paints, eco-friendly cleaning products, energy efficient lighting and a hybrid car service for guests are another breath of fresh air.

www.lennoxhotel.com

Sparkling Seas

Now under the wing of the Preferred Boutique Hotel label the Guayana Eco Resort & Spa has been implementing ongoing recycling and composting efforts and daily clearing of the seas surrounding the resort to keep them sparkling clean. Researchers at the resort's state of the art Marine Ecology Research Centre have been investigating clam propagation, biorock coral reef rehabilitation and saving injured or dying marine life. Back on terra firma, the resort has adopted the mangroves around the Malohom Bay to protect that and water catchment areas and to ensure ongoing survival of marine life. The news that shark fin soup is off the menu here is no surprise. www.gayana-eco-resort.com