

conference centre green electricity

In keeping with our leadership role and as announced at the 'Conferencing Green' launch in November 2008, the Vineyard Hotel & Spa Conference Centre will be operating on *Green Electricity* for all conferencing from September 2009.

The green electricity strategy in the Conference Centre is a key component of the overall plan for more sustainable operations and carbon emission reductions at the hotel.

'Green electricity' is electricity generated from renewable sources such as wind, solar and wave power. These are environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional electricity that is generated from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. Fossil fuels are an enormous source of greenhouse gas emissions (such as carbon dioxide), contributing to the present global warming crisis, and are finite in supply.

One place where green electricity is generated is the Darling Wind Farm (DWF), South Africa's first commercial wind farm, situated in Darling in the Western Cape. This four turbine (1.3MW each) wind farm is a partnership between the Central Energy Fund, the Development Bank of South Africa, the Danish Government, the private Darling Independent Power Producer and the City of Cape Town.

Every MWh of Green Electricity saves coal and water and prevents the emission of ash, air pollutants and carbon emissions. The Green Electricity Certificates (GECs) provide a certified link between the Conference Centre and the Renewable Energy generator.

Overall, Vineyard Hotel & Spa customers will be able to declare their event as being run on 'green electricity' and to claim the carbon emission reductions associated with energy consumption at the event, without having to resort to carbon offsetting.

The commitment to Green Electricity by the Vineyard Hotel and Spa shows leadership and supports national and international policy on renewable energy and climate change mitigation.

www.capetown.gov.za/en/electricity/GreenElectricity/Pages/default.aspx



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