



# CARBON REDUCTION INSTITUTE

## MERCURE MEETINGS – CARBON NEUTRAL OFFERING

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

The Mercure Meetings offering is specifically designed to measure and offset the greenhouse gas footprint produced by each meeting service. Each Mercure hotel then funds the cost of the offsets and will not pass them on to you.

The Carbon Reduction Institute in conjunction with Mercure calculates the emissions from the following:

- energy used to heat, cool and ventilate the venue
- electricity consumed by lighting and AV equipment used
- emissions embodied in the food and beverage packages supplied for the event

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 New Zealand economy and emission factors provided by industry bodies, universities and the Ministry for the Environment. These emissions are then offset using carbon credits that are certified under the internationally recognised Voluntary Carbon Standard.

Currently the offsets will be funding the 'Household Energy Efficient Lighting Project' (HELP), implemented by Energy Mad (a New Zealand based company). With the aim to lessen climate change through economical energy savings, Energy Mad have partnered with electricity networks and retail outlets encouraging consumers to purchase the Ecobulb (Australasia's highest performance energy saving bulb) at a heavily discounted rate. By installing Ecobulbs to replace incandescent light bulbs, the initiative leads to a direct reduction in fossil fuel electricity generation and reduces consumer's electricity bills and wastage in our landfills.

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. The emissions from these sources are often the largest contributor to the total emission of an event, therefore the total event should not be referred to as carbon neutral unless these emissions have been calculated and offset.

\* Mercure Meetings is not offered by Mercure Dunedin Leisure Lodge

