

conference centre green energy

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 Power* for all conferencing from September 2009.

The Green Power strategy in the Conference Centre is a key component of the overall plan for more sustainable operations and carbon emission reductions at the hotel. **GreenX Energy** (www.greenxenergy.com) will supply Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) which provide the certification of the Green Power for customers. Every MWh of Green Power saves coal and water and prevents the emission of ash, air pollutants and carbon emissions. As the Renewable Energy (RE) industry expands it will provide new employment opportunities and reduce risks in the SA economy.

The Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) approach is used in Europe (refer to www.recs.org) and the USA and the South African Department of Energy (DOE) is developing this approach for South Africa in association with the current Green Power suppliers and producers (refer to www.dme.gov.za/energy/renew_TRECS.stm). The RECs provide a certified link between the Conference Centre and the Renewable Energy generator. One of the main Renewable Energy generators which currently registers and sells the Green Power certificates through GreenX Energy is the Umzimkulu Sugar Mill in KwaZulu Natal. The mill uses bagasse, the fibrous waste in the sugar industry, to generate Renewable Energy.

Overall, Vineyard Hotel & Spa customers will be able to declare their event as being run on Green Power 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 Power by the Vineyard Hotel and Spa shows leadership and supports national and international policy on renewable energy and climate change mitigation.



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 living green

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