

THE ENVIRONMENT

The company has a committed approach to environmental issues. It has incorporated into the design of its hotels the installation of its proprietary ELV (extra low voltage) system, aimed at saving energy.

Suppliers are aware of the company stance on the environment and assist the hotels and properties in obtaining suitable products such as biodegradable materials including all-purpose cleaners, carpet shampoos and detergents and environmentally friendly sprays. Where possible, these are approved brands recommended by domestic environmental protection agencies or government departments.

Water and energy control and conservation are an important focus. Ageing equipment, such as chillers, is being replaced with technologically advanced models which have higher efficiency and lower energy consumption; fire pumps are tested on days when energy usage is lower; spot checks throughout the day and regular water and energy patrols at night are conducted to ensure taps are closed properly and unnecessary lights or equipment are switched off. Where the hotel has extensive grounds, such as in Bangkok, recycled water is used to irrigate the gardens.

Waste management is another area in which the hotels are active in recycling, either adopting the approved city method – as in Chicago where the hotel uses the Blue Bag system – or the waste is separated out by type and passed to external collectors for recycling. The Kowloon Hotel in Hong Kong was recognised as a “green” hotel, with the award of the “Wastewi\$e” logo from the Hong Kong Productivity Council in its 2004 Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards Ceremony.

The hotels endeavour to avoid using foodstuffs or ingredients known to be derived from GM crops or containing GM organisms, although the lack of mandatory labelling in some jurisdictions means that the properties cannot guarantee unconditionally that foodstuffs used are GM-free. There is also an effort to ensure that menu items posted do not include endangered species, for example in the case of fish stocks that are perceived to be over-farmed or approaching extinction.