

## **Reducing your Footprint whilst attending MEDECOS XI 2007**

Thank you for registering to attend MEDECOS XI 2007 in Perth, Western Australia, in September 2007. We hope your time at the Conference will be rewarding.

The MEDECOS XI 2007 Organising Committee is committed to hosting an environmentally friendly Conference as possible, and seeks your support to ensure a low Conference footprint is achieved.

To help you (and the Organisers) achieve this goal, here are a few initiatives we are hoping delegates will support prior to and ensuing the Conference:

### **Offsetting carbon emissions**

Consider offsetting the carbon emissions you will have generated in traveling to and from the Conference. There are a number of easy on-line options that delegates can access – such as Climate Friendly. See: <http://www.climatefriendly.com>. To neutralise the Carbon Dioxide emissions from events like these, Climate Friendly offers a service whereby it arranges to fund clean energy generation schemes that use renewable energy sources. This funding seeks to achieve clean energy generation that would otherwise not be possible. Thus, the funding directly results in the avoidance of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel electricity generation that the clean energy generation displaces.

Another option is to offset your carbon emissions by contributing to the planting of native trees in Western Australia – for example through the Men of the Trees' Carbon Neutral Program. See: [www.carbonneutral.com.au](http://www.carbonneutral.com.au)

### **Printing**

Wherever possible the Conference Organisers have utilised the MEDECOS XI 2007 website and electronic communications (eg. emails and PDFs) as an alternative to printing documents and mailing them out. In the circumstances where hard copies are required of Conference documents, these will be printed on the most environmentally-friendly paper stock we were able to source. In addition, the number of pages in all official MEDECOS Xi 2007 Conference documents has been minimised.

The number of flyers in your satchels has minimized, and instead, will be available on the registration tables for you to view. Please take these flyers only if you are genuinely interested in the information that they provide.

### **Environmentally-friendly Venue**

The Conference venue – The University Club of Western Australia – adheres to the environmental policies of the University of Western Australia.

A Green Committee was recently formed to develop ideas for making the University Club more sustainable. The Committee has created a 'Green Action Plan' and a 'Green Policy' aimed at reducing the ecological footprint of the Club's operations and by doing so, participates in the University's Green Office programme with 50 other volunteer Coordinators, educating work colleagues on how to make office operations more environmentally friendly.

Behind the scenes, the administration area is aiming to reduce paper consumption by at least 20% (via a double side printing set-up and the re-use of printed paper as internal notepads) and purchases only recycled paper through the 'Paper Smart' program.

The University Club also aims to cut its energy consumption and greenhouse emissions by planning several campaigns such as 'switch off' and 'ride to work' campaigns. Unnecessary lighting and electrical appliances that are usually on standby will be switched off when not in use, which the Club anticipates will lead to a 15% reduction in energy consumption and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity and water consumption of the University Club building will be metered and monitored to track the success and progress of energy and water efficiency actions.

The University Club is aiming to produce virtually zero waste by recycling paper, cardboard, tins, cans, plastics, glass and even corks! So, at the conference, the paper, glass, and plastic you use will be collected at The University Club and recycled. Further, no styrofoam will be used at The University Club.

The University Club is also conscious of the environmental awareness of its clients and will soon be able to offer alternative green options to function organisers. The Club is also investigating the opportunity to offer the Carbon Offset to their conferences.

#### GREEN ACTION PLAN LAUNCH – OCTOBER 2007

To reduce the amount of waste created by the mountains of disposable takeaway cups used each day, customers are able to purchase their very own ECO MUG, a thermal mug that can be refilled with your favourite hot beverage at The University Club. As a thank you to environmentally conscientious customers the first beverage purchased with the ECO MUG is free.

#### **Name Badge Holders**

Name badge holders will be collected and recycled.

*Thank you for considering the size of the footprint created by your participation at MEDECOS XI 2007 and how you can take steps to minimise, reduce and/or offset your personal ecological footprint.*