

## Trailblazer Not For Profit Award – Judges Commendation

### YHA National Office



*Daniel Shields - Marketing Manager YHA National Office*

#### **Background:**

YHA New Zealand's National Office is based in Christchurch. YHA New Zealand provides quality budget accommodation and travel services for international and domestic guests, and has 27 wholly owned hostels and 24 'associate' hostels around the country.

YHA is committed to a sustainable world acknowledging that their hostel operations have an impact on the environment. YHA sees the opportunity due to New Zealand's environmentally friendly resources and geographical location, and is committed to doing their bit.

#### **Challenge:**

Success is inextricably linked to New Zealand's 'clean green' image.

#### **Some Responses:**

In the National Office Jonathon Tunnell, Coordinator Social Sustainability, ensures that regional hostels green up before working on external sustainable development to ensure internal dedication.

YHA continuously measures their emissions as part of their priority to reduce direct CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and waste, and are working to ensure future building developments integrate green building technologies.



YHA has a zero waste goal, and takes responsibility for the tonnes of organic waste their hostels generate each year. The company has solutions for 50 percent of their organic waste which include: composting waste on site; worm farms; and a commercial food collection service for pig food.

Each year, YHA owned hostels work with local environmental groups to make a difference in their own community. Over the years some fantastic partnerships have been made with groups such as 'Clean up NZ Week' and the 'Green Footprint Project'.

YHA is committed to reducing energy consumption and water. Some of the initiatives underway include the refitting of light bulbs with energy efficient ones, installing heat pumps, installing heat recovery systems, and replacing showerheads with low-flow models.

**Judges comments from the National awards:**

- The Judges thought the national office deserved recognition for its decision to use its position to influence sustainability throughout the network
- Initiatives taken at the head office level (e.g carbon emission reporting) translates to their affiliated regions.

**Judges comments from the SBN Southern regional awards:**

- The Judges felt that this organisation should be congratulated for their innovative initiatives from large strategic alliances being made with transport companies that provide sustainable services, to smaller but equally important initiatives such as reusing old pillowcases as bin liners.

