

## Scandic Aarhus City – The greenest hotel in Aarhus



Sustainability has been a cornerstone in the construction of Scandic Aarhus City which opened in June 2012. Behind the historic facade from 1875 an ultramodern hotel is located in the heart of Aarhus city.

Since its opening the hotel has been certified with the Swan label in recognition of our implementations of green solutions. Right from the kitchen where food waste is being systematically reduced, to our solar cell-covered roof where 90 percent of the electricity consumption for the hotel rooms is generated.

These are just two of many initiatives that places Scandic Aarhus City as market leaders within eco-friendly hotel service. The whole staff carries out a determined piece of work for the environment, climate and society without compromising the comfort of the guest.

### **Guests are searching for eco-friendly hotels**

According to the Association for hotels, restaurants and tourism industry in Denmark, Horesta, only 27

percent of all Danish hotels are certified as eco-friendly.

In this group Scandic is the only hotel-chain certified with the Swan label. The Swan label is the official eco-label in Denmark and the rest of The Nordic Countries which sets the highest standards for eco-friendly hotel service.

Unlike other eco-labels, the Swan label concerns the entire hotel service, including sorting of waste, chemical discharge and energy consumption.

Only one hotel has, together with Scandic, chosen to go all-out with the sustainability work. Previously, there has been more Swan labelled hotels, but every third year the demands are extended and not all has got their license renewed.

For Scandic Aarhus City it is a fundamental ambition to provide our guests with an eco-friendly stay; whether the guests are a family on vacation or companies hosting meetings and conferences.

Ecolabelling Denmark states that there is an increasing demand for eco-friendly hotels from companies. A trend which also applies for leisure

guests who wish to stay at green hotels which are concerned about their CO2 emissions and serving organic food.

In our endeavours to become a green hotel it has been essential for Scandic Aarhus City to obtain the Swan label certification. Our passion for sustainability shows in every part of the hotel.



*The solar cells generate between 85-90 percent of the electrical consumption of the hotel rooms.*

### **Sunshine lights up the TV**

One of those places is on the roof of the hotel where we have installed 240 solar cell panels. They produce an annual amount of 60.000 kWh which covers about 85-90 percent of the electrical consumption of the hotel rooms.

It is possible for the guest to follow the current energy production of the solar cells on a tv-monitor at the reception. The remaining electrical consumption of the hotel is covered by wind- and water energy delivered from Norway.

In order to reduce our total electrical consumption we have made several adjustments. Instead of having minibar-refrigerators using electricity in all 228 rooms (except for our eight suites) we decided to remove them and open a shop at the reception where guests can buy the same refreshments 24/7.

Another initiative which saves us a lot of energy is the air conditioning system. It is connected to the

booking system by which no unnecessary energy is wasted on non-occupied rooms.

The continuing implementation of energy saving initiatives has made it possible for Scandic Aarhus City to cut their energy consumption in half pr. guest stay over since 1996 – the same time when Scandic group started measuring their consumption of water, electricity and energy.

### **Organic waste gets the city busses going**

It has been known for long that the Danes throw away too much food. This accounts for the hotel industry as well where large amounts of food from buffets and restaurants end up in the bin.

Therefore, we have taken action and changed our routines so that food waste is brought down to a minimum.

Both at buffets and conferences we have introduced smaller plates which leaves us with fewer leftovers.

The kitchen staff are careful not to overload the buffet but instead refill it when needed. We also weigh all the food that gets thrown out so we can keep track with our own work.

The leftovers from buffets and the organic waste produced in our kitchen is not thrown out but recycled. We have a waste disposer in the kitchen which extracts the water from the food after which the waste product is turned into animal feed, fertiliser or biogas for the benefit of the environment.

The used deep fryer oil is also reused and transformed into biodiesel that city busses use instead of petrol.

The waste separation in the rest of the hotel has likewise been optimised so that we sort the waste in more fractions than earlier. In the hotel rooms we have introduced a three-part dustbin which allows for the guest to sort the waste in a right manner.



*Next to the solar cells we keep our four beehives. They make an annual production of 200 kilos of honey which can be enjoyed at the breakfast buffet and by Scandic Friends.*

### **Plastic off – recycling in**

At Scandic Aarhus City we are very conscious about the products we use and the conditions under which they are made.

Therefore, all the rooms in the hotel are made of recyclable materials. Floors, beds and furniture are made of Nordic wood species and the linen from wool and cotton.

For the same reason we don't use plastic bags or plastic water bottles either. Instead, the guest can drink the best and cleanest water there is – our own tap water. The water is served in our custom made recycled glass bottles which are located around the hotel.

By using tap water we not only save tons of plastic waste but also the transportation of the bottles back and forth from the hotel.

In addition, we have removed all plastic packaging which used to contain soap and shampoo, and replaced them with refillable ones.

The same goes for the butter and marmalade packages on the buffet. These adjustments have saved the environment tons of plastic waste each year.

In housekeeping at Scandic Aarhus City we have the philosophy that we not only clean for our guests but also for our children and grand children. In

practice this means that we work to protect the environment by limiting the chemical discharge as much as possible.

Almost all of our cleaning products are Swan labelled and we use automatic dispensing systems so that only the necessary amount of detergent is used. Our guests contribute to this by reusing their towel when it's not dirty.

### **Charity dinner for Indian street children**

Scandic Aarhus City is not only focused on sustainability work. The hotel is also engaged in social initiatives to support the local and international community.

The most significant initiative is our annual charity gala which we host together with Littlebighelp – a charity organisation which works for education, health and human rights in India.

We sponsor a dinner for 160 people and the surplus – which this year was 540.000 DKK – is spend on a project for Indian street children.

Another social initiative at the hotel has been the construction of our roof terrace. It is build by students from the social psychiatric treatment centre, Holmstrupgaard.

Next to the terrace we keep our four beehives. They consist of 280.000 bees which annually deliver 200 kilos of honey available at the morning buffet and to our Scandic Friends.

### **Collaboration between Scandic and Studenterhus Aarhus**

At the moment Scandic Aarhus City sets the highest standards for sustainable hotel service. However, it is a process in constant development and we want to contribute to this.

We have an ambition of becoming a CO2 neutral hotel where all energy is delivered by renewable energy sources. In order to reach this goal Scandic

Aarhus City has facilitated a student advisory board together with Studenterhus Aarhus.

In this workshop, consisting of students from Aarhus University, citizens and members of the hotel, we will discuss innovative sustainability solutions for the hotel.

### **Achievements for Scandic Aarhus City since 1996:**

The Scandic-group are market leaders within sustainable hotel service. Since 1996 Scandic has measured its consumption of energy, water, CO2 emission and unsorted waste. Listed below are the most recent achievements for Scandic Aarhus City compared to the Scandic group average in 1996.

<b>Energy consumption pr. guest stay over</b> 1996: 52,85 kWh 2015: 25,4 kWh = - 51,94 %	<b>Unsorted waste pr guest stay over</b> 1996: 0,83 2015: 0,65 = - 21,69 %
<b>Water consumption pr. guest stay over</b> 1996: 248 litres 2015: 143 litres = - 42,34 %	<b>Emission of CO2 pr. guest stay over</b> 1996: 4,49 kg 2015: 2,02 kg = - 55,01 %