



NABERS

NABERS Hotel Ratings

The Mercure Sydney



What is NABERS?

NABERS for hotels is a tool designed to give hotels a one to six star rating for energy and water efficiency. It rates hotel space, including all facilities provided for the hotel guests and staff. The water and energy used in non-hotel areas onsite, such as public retail areas, can be excluded from the rating.



Adam Hansen, Chief Engineer at The Mercure Hotel, Sydney

The Mercure Hotel Sydney

The Mercure Hotel Sydney is part of the Accor Group, which has 4,800 hotels across 100 countries. The group's sustainability program, Planet 21, sets out some ambitious targets, positioning the group as a leader in the hotel industry.

The Mercure Sydney's Chief Engineer Adam Hansen (pictured) believes that achieving a NABERS rating each year is a valuable tool. Not only has it helped him reduce water and energy consumption and costs on site – it's also given the Mercure Hotel a competitive advantage in the market.

NABERS is a stamp of approval which is recognised by many organisations in Australia - an easy way to communicate the hotel's sustainability efforts. As Adam says, "it simplifies the discussion." Increasingly, companies looking to hold conferences are also asking for sustainability certifications when deciding on a venue for their events and favouring those hotels that do. Adam says that even some airline crew prefer to stay in NABERS rated hotels.

Another benefit of NABERS is that unlike some certifications, NABERS accompanies hotels in an ongoing journey towards greater energy and water efficiency. While the Mercure Hotel Sydney may have already attained an impressive 4-star energy rating, this is only a snapshot. NABERS assessors can make recommendations for energy and water efficiency improvements. Once implemented, improved performance can lead to more stars in their next rating. This means that getting a NABERS rating each year can help hotels to target and achieve yearly energy, water and financial savings.

The sustainability journey

The Schwarz Family, which owns the Mercure Hotel Sydney, was already a sustainability leader in the hotel sector. Its Sustainability & Projects Co-ordinator, Paul Briggs, has implemented a number of Energy Management Systems (EMS), as well as solar and room environmental automation in hotels, including in the Mercure Hotel Sydney.

The Mercure Sydney has a sophisticated Building Management System (BMS), which provides insights into the hotel's energy usage and gives Adam and his team better control of the energy use in the hotel.

Water submetering in the kitchen and bars empower the team to monitor usage daily, so when they see spikes they can respond immediately. By using submetering, the hotel reduced water consumption by 1069% in its cooling towers and 250% in the pool area.

The 100KW solar system (pictured) on the Mercure Hotel Sydney's roof produces about 4% of the hotel's total energy consumption.



As in previous years, Adam worked with an external NABERS assessor. He says, “the assessor was great and the process was easy - she came and did a two hour site inspection, and explained the whole process. She took some photos and gave us a list of documentation she needed. She also helped with excluding the consumption of a retail business on the premises.”

A bright future

The Mercure Hotel Sydney is advancing fast towards the Planet 21 goal of carbon neutral buildings. For example, all new rooms will have LED lighting and a motion detection system that senses when guests leave the room and automatically switches off all air-conditioning, lights and energy.

Adam’s goal is for the Mercure Hotel Sydney to achieve a 4.5-star energy rating and a 4-star water rating in 2020. With the help of his NABERS assessor’s recommendations on how to keep improving the hotel’s energy and water efficiency, Adam is confident he can achieve this.

How NABERS can help you

If you’re interested in finding out more about the NABERS rating for hotels, get in touch! We can tell you more about what you need to prepare for a rating, how to find an assessor and answer any other questions you may have.



Visit www.nabers.gov.au, email us at nabers@environment.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 9995 5000 and ask for the NABERS team.

**SUSTAINABLE
DESTINATION
PARTNERSHIP**

We are a proud associate member of the Sustainable Destination Partnership, a network of businesses working together to tackle emissions, waste and water. We are leading the way and promoting best practice in environmental performance.

Contact us

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Office of Environment and Heritage.**

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