

NEWS RELEASE

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Another milestone in the environmental work:

Now Scandic is phasing out bottled water

Scandic has decided to stop selling bottled water in its restaurants and during conferences. The hotel chain calculates that this move will cut fossil carbon dioxide emissions by 160 tonnes per year. Scandic currently sells around 1.2 million litres of water, equating to 3.6 million 33cl bottles, every year.

Last autumn Scandic decided to reduce fossil carbon dioxide emissions from its direct activities to zero by 2025, with an interim target of halving emissions by 2011. Bottled water is being phased out at Scandic as part of the next focus, which in part is on shipments to the hotels.

"After careful consideration, we have decided that this is the right thing to do," comments Jan Peter Bergkvist, Vice President of Sustainable Business at Scandic. "We believe that our guests are interested in taking the next step towards a sustainable future, and that everyone is starting to realise the madness of transporting water around on our roads," he continues.

Instead of bottled water, Scandic will now be offering its guests chilled and filtered water, both still and carbonated, from taps. The taps will ensure that valuable minerals and salts are retained while unwanted chemicals are removed. Scandic's guests will still be able to have their water bottled – but filling the bottle at the hotel avoids unnecessary shipments of water impacting on the environment.

According to the Stockholm Consumer Cooperative Society, bottled water generates 1,000 times the carbon dioxide emissions created by the same quantity of tap water. Scandic expects to cut fossil carbon dioxide emissions by around 160 tonnes a year, based on the fact that the hotel chain currently purchases over 1.2 million litres of bottled water every year in the Nordic countries alone. That is equivalent to over 3.6 million 33cl bottles.

Since 2005, Scandic is a proud founder of the Stockholm Water Prize, a prestigious global award presented annually by the Stockholm Water Foundation to an individual, organisation or institution for outstanding water-related activities. The 2008 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate will be announced today, in conjunction with the World Water Day on 22 March.

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Scandic is the leading hotel chain in the Nordic region and with 141 hotels in operation and under development, one of the largest hotel operators in Europe. With a keen focus on growth, we are actively pursuing opportunities to expand our network. A stay at Scandic is a step towards a more sustainable future – for our society and our environment. Nordic common sense. scandichotels.com

The Scandic logo, featuring the word "Scandic" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.