

GREEN ANATOMY

'Leaf' personal light

designed by Yves Behar for Herman Miller

\$1200, IN RED, WHITE, BLACK, CHROME, NICKEL, FROM MATISSE, 09 302 2284

- a) Energy-efficient LEDs consume between eight and nine watts of power, carry a 60,000-hour lifespan at full power, and cut energy use by 40 per cent compared to standard CFLs.
- b) Comprised of 37 per cent recycled materials – 24 per cent post- and 13 per cent pre-consumer recycled content.
- c) Up to 95 per cent recyclable.
- d) Form created to minimise material use.
- e) Mercury and lead-free.



HOME ENERGY RATINGS

We know it can be difficult to determine how energy-efficient a home is, but now there is expert help at hand.

- a) The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) provides an evaluation service for an existing home or plans for a new build. The process gives a star rating along with tailored recommendations as to the most cost-effective ways in which your home's energy efficiency – and therefore rating – can be improved. Costs are roughly \$200-400 for the average home. See www.energywise.govt.nz/yourhome/home-energy-ratings for details.
- b) Right House can assess existing houses nationwide for energy efficiency but mainly concentrates on optimising new-builds. An assessor will meet clients and examine their plans to advise how the design can be optimised for maximum energy efficiency, with respect to aspect, design, passive systems and active systems (appliances etc). Right House then installs the products, providing a 'start-to-finish' energy-efficiency solution. The initial consultation is free. 0800 RIGHTHOUSE or www.righthouse.co.nz

(talk)

Calling architects and engineers – the Green Building Council and Property Council New Zealand are holding Green Building Summit 08 in Auckland on May 29. Under discussion: policies for green building, carbon trading and urban sustainability. Email carolyne@propertynz.co.nz for booking details.



HAVE A BREAKDOWN

The newest option for those on a quest to find something green to line the bin with is the 'totelbreakdown'. The bags perform like plastic, but will biodegrade completely in 'biologically active environments' – so in your worm farm, compost heap, or even the landfill, they will break down completely in 5-6 weeks. The 'totelbreakdown' bags really do tick all the boxes: they are made of 100 per cent compostable certified GMO-free cornstarch, are reusable, printed with biodegradable ink and made in New Zealand. See www.totel.co.nz to order.

(click)

www.offsettherest.com

If you've done all you can to reduce and recycle at home, consider offsetting the rest. Offsettherest is a website through which you can offset emissions from your car, house, flights, events, or child's disposable nappies. Carbon credits are generated through two projects (independently validated by the Gold Standard system): a grid-connected biomass power plant in Andhra, India, using agricultural waste as its fuel, and Te Apiti wind farm north of the Manawatu Gorge. NZ's carbonzero.co.nz is another worthy option.

ASK AN EXPERT

We have superb indigenous timber, which makes it morally indefensible to use imported finishing timber. So how is MAF encouraging sustainable supplies of NZ native timber?



ROBERT MILLER

Manager, Indigenous Forestry Unit, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry

The Ministry has approved 48 sustainable forest management plans with a total approved annual harvest volume of 80,000 cubic metres from 21 indigenous timber species. An Indigenous Forestry Advisory Group made up of growers, processors and architects is developing a number of initiatives, one of which is promoting the awareness and use of indigenous timbers for high value-added products. A marketing strategy for the beech species is currently being developed through a Sustainable Farming Fund project. As industry and public awareness grow, the Ministry sees a bright future in which New Zealanders can regularly feature indigenous timbers in homes, work places and public buildings. For information on indigenous forestry go to www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/indigenous-forestry.

Email us your green questions at greenhome@acpmagazines.co.nz