

greensheet



» NATURAL FUSION

If you're keen on buying New Zealand-made bedroom furniture, Design Mobil's Fusion range is worth checking out. Harvesting and milling their own wood, Design Mobil makes the range out of a finger-jointed rimu panel called Fusewood. Small timber waste and dust is compressed into briquettes and sold as fuel, so nothing is wasted. As Sustainable Business of the Year 2007, the company practices what it preaches, so there's bamboo quilting on mattresses, and a range of bamboo linen and bedding. Design Mobil has just opened a design store called Okooko (Maori: 'to cradle in arms') at 282 Wakefield St, Wellington, where the ranges will be available. www.designmobil.co.nz

» TOTELLY GOOD IDEA

If you're looking for a handy shopping bag that'll last the distance, Wellington sustainable business Totel Ltd has launched the first of their New Zealand-made reusable shopping bags – the 'grandtotel'. Durable and 100 per cent recyclable, the bags contain 10 per cent locally-recycled plastic. Totel will receive any bags that have passed their useful life and return them to the manufacturer for recycling. www.totel.co.nz



GREEN ANATOMY

Giddyup Rocking Stool designed by Tim Wigmore

\$845 FROM UNLESS, 06 752 4440



- a) Re-purposed saddle sourced from within New Zealand.
- b) Highest quality Australian plantation hoop pine used in the construction of the base. New Zealand-made.
- c) Efficient use of material – wood cut to minimise waste. Leftovers used for other products.
- d) Robust design ensures longer life cycle.
- e) Base fits together with no screws or glue. Reduces the amount of packaging needed.
- f) Eco-friendly non-toxic citrus oil finish.

www.unless.co.nz

(switch)

It's been around for a few years, but it's worth remembering the Centameter. A device that attaches to your meter and displays your electricity consumption and its cost, the Centameter gives you a visible result when you cut back on electricity. Available from www.centameter.co.nz

SAVE ENERGY BY:

- not rinsing dishes before putting them in the dishwasher
- setting your fridge temperature to 2-5 degrees

ASK AN EXPERT

All right, I'll try being greener – but I want it to be simple. What's the most effective single thing I can do in the home to reduce my carbon footprint?



GARETH RENOWDEN

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Reducing your carbon footprint means cutting down on the things you do that generate carbon emissions – in the home, that's mostly about cutting down on the energy you use to power your lifestyle. One quick and easy way to cut carbon and save money is to switch from using ordinary lightbulbs to new compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). These bulbs last eight to 10 times longer than traditional incandescents and use only 20 per cent of the energy for an equivalent amount of light. They cost about \$6 each, but pay for themselves in energy savings long before they stop working. The government calculates that over a year a CFL used for three hours a day will save \$17.50 on electricity. If we replaced all the incandescent bulbs in New Zealand with CFLs, we'd save \$180 million per year, and enough electricity to power 120,000 homes.

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