



# SUSTONICA

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION FOR  
SHORT-TERM RENTALS

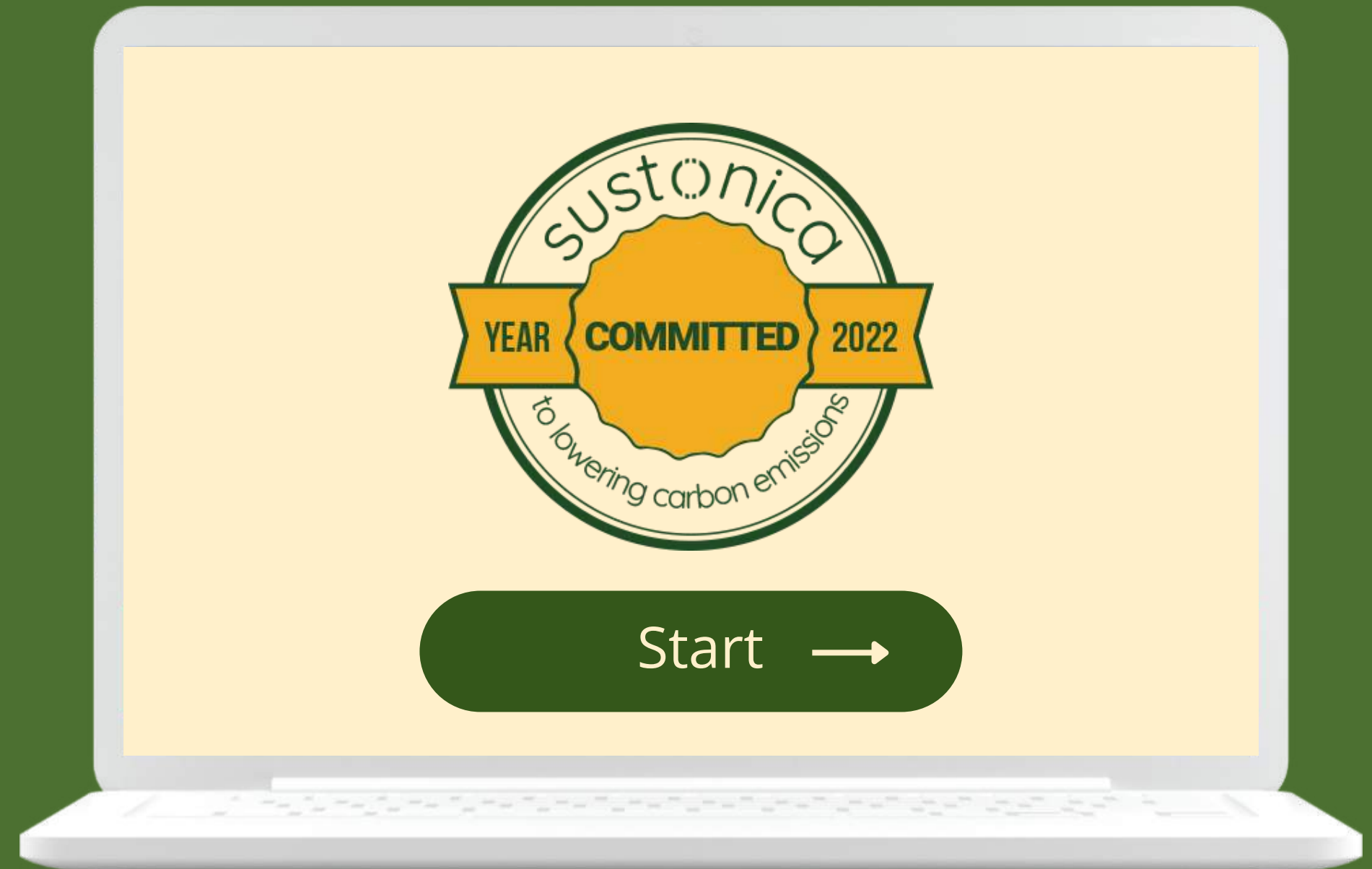


[www.sustonica.com](http://www.sustonica.com)



# GETTING YOUR **COMMITTED** CERTIFICATION

Please read these instructions carefully before submitting your application. Based on 7 of the United Nations SDG Goals. Prepare proofs for at least 3 in each category: **Energy, People, Waste and Water**, and for each vacation rental.





## KITCHEN

- Fridge has A/B/C energy label
- Induction Cooktop
- Waste, Recycling, Compost Bins
- Washing machine Instructions
- Water filter for drinking tap water
- No single use plastic
- Paperless kitchen
- Canvas bags for shopping
- Reusable water bottles offered
- Green cleaning products



## SAVING ENERGY

- All bulbs are LED
- Air-conditioning energy-saving
- Smart indoor thermostat
- Smart occupancy sensors
- Windows are double glazed
- Electricity is on green energy tariff



## RESPECT PEOPLE

- Wheelchair-accessible
- Labelling rental door bell
- Noise monitoring tool
- Visible Sustainability Chart
- Labelling rental door bell



## BATHROOMS

- Refillable dispensers
- Dual Flush Toilets
- Low flow faucets
- Low flow shower heads
- Low flow toilets



## DIGITAL WELCOME BOOK

Lists of:

- Locally sourced food stores
- Vegetarian restaurants
- Organic food restaurants
- Local volunteering work
- Local heritage sites
- Off-the-beaten-path sites

**sustonica**  
Sustainability Certification  
for Vacation Rentals

© 2023 Sustonica S.L.

# 40 GUIDELINES

**YOU MUST TICK  
3 IN EACH  
CATEGORY TO  
RECEIVE YOUR  
CERTIFICATION**

## ENERGY (TICK MINIMUM 3)

- Electricity is on green energy tariff
- Fridge has A/B/C energy label
- Smart indoor thermostat
- Smart pool thermostat
- All bulbs are LED
- Hot water pipes are insulated
- Kitchen has an induction cooktop
- Windows are high performance or double glazed
- Smart occupancy sensors
- Air-conditioning units have an energy-saving setting

## PEOPLE (TICK MINIMUM 3)

- Wheelchair-accessible
- Labelling rental door bell
- Noise monitoring tool
- Visible Sustainability Chart
- List of locally sourced food stores
- List of vegetarian restaurants
- List of organic food restaurants
- List of local volunteering work
- List of local heritage sites
- List of off-the-beaten-path sites

## WASTE (TICK MINIMUM 3)

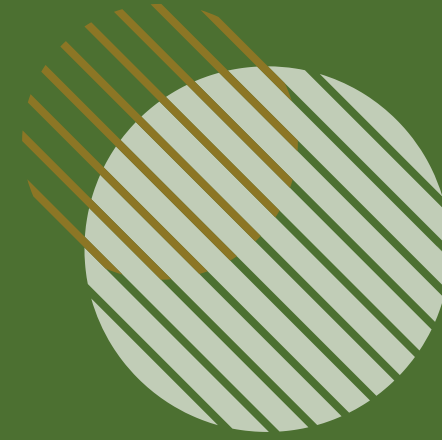
- Digital welcome book
- Waste, Recycling, Compost Bins
- Refillable shampoo & soap dispensers
- Water filter for drinking tap water
- No single use plastic
- Paperless kitchen
- Composting Toilets
- Eco-friendly bed linens
- Canvas bags for shopping
- Reusable water bottles offered

## WATER (TICK MINIMUM 3)

- Washing machine instructions
- Leak detection systems
- Saltwater Pool
- Dual Flush Toilets
- Low flow faucets
- Low flow shower heads
- Low flow toilets
- Green cleaning products
- Rain sensors on irrigation systems
- Collecting rain water

● ● ● Based on SDG 7.1.

# SAVE ENERGY



Get your rental ready to save energy, tick at least 3:

- Electricity is on green energy tariff
- Fridge has A/B/C energy label
- Smart indoor thermostat
- Smart pool thermostat
- All bulbs are LED
- Hot water pipes are insulated
- Kitchen has an induction cooktop
- Windows are high performance or double glazed
- Smart occupancy sensors
- Air-conditioning units have an energy-saving setting



# GREEN ENERGY TARIFF

Many electricity suppliers offer green tariffs, which can either mean they'll match your usage with renewable energy generation or they will contribute towards environmental schemes on your behalf.

**HOW?** It's just a phone call to the electricity supplier

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**  
Electricity Invoice



# FRIDGE HAS A/B/C ENERGY LABEL

The appliance that consumes the most (apart from air-conditioning) is usually the fridge. An old class D fridge will use up to 662 kWh per year compared to a new A+++ fridge which uses around 150 kWh per year.

**HOW?** In the USA the fridge is certified by energy star; in Europe it has A,B,C energy label

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**  
Invoice/Photo/Video of the fridge

Indoor & Pool

# SMART THERMOSTATS

Smart thermostats are easy for guests to use. You can set locking limits preventing guests from setting the temperature at something absurdly hot or cold, and you can operate it remotely for when the property is vacant.

**HOW?** Refer to the [Sustonica website](#) for the best thermostats for vacation rentals

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the Thermostats

# ALL BULBS ARE LED

Switching from traditional light bulbs to LEDs provides important energy savings in terms of lighting in the home. Replacing energy-saving light bulbs with LED light bulbs can offer savings of up to 50% in consumption on lighting.

**HOW?** Check that ALL your bulbs are LED and if not replace

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of all the lights

# INSULATED HOT WATER PIPES

Insulating your hot water pipes reduces heat loss and can help you save 25-45% of the heat that would otherwise be lost while it is turned off, allowing you to lower your water temperature setting.

**HOW?** Add foam tubing to pipes is a straightforward and affordable process

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of the Pipes

# INDUCTION COOKTOP

An induction cooktop conserves energy as it is 12% more efficient at heating food than a smooth-top electric cooktop or range. Induction cooktops are great for safety, don't warm up the air and are much easier to clean.

**HOW?** Switching to induction means changing your pots and pans to be ferromagnetic.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the cooktop

# HIGH PERFORMANCE WINDOWS

Good glazing reduces heat gain and loss, thereby helping to minimise the use of artificial heating and cooling in a building. Up to 40% of a home’s heating energy can be lost, and up to 87% of its heat gained, through windows.

**HOW?** Energy-efficient windows include double- & triple-glazed and low-E glass.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of the Windows

# SMART OCCUPANCY SENSORS

Use of occupancy sensors for control of lighting can save up to 30% electrical energy used for lighting and combined with smart thermostats can also turn on/off the air-con and heating systems when guests are not home.

**HOW?** Refer to the [Sustonica website](#) for the best solutions for vacation rentals

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the sensors

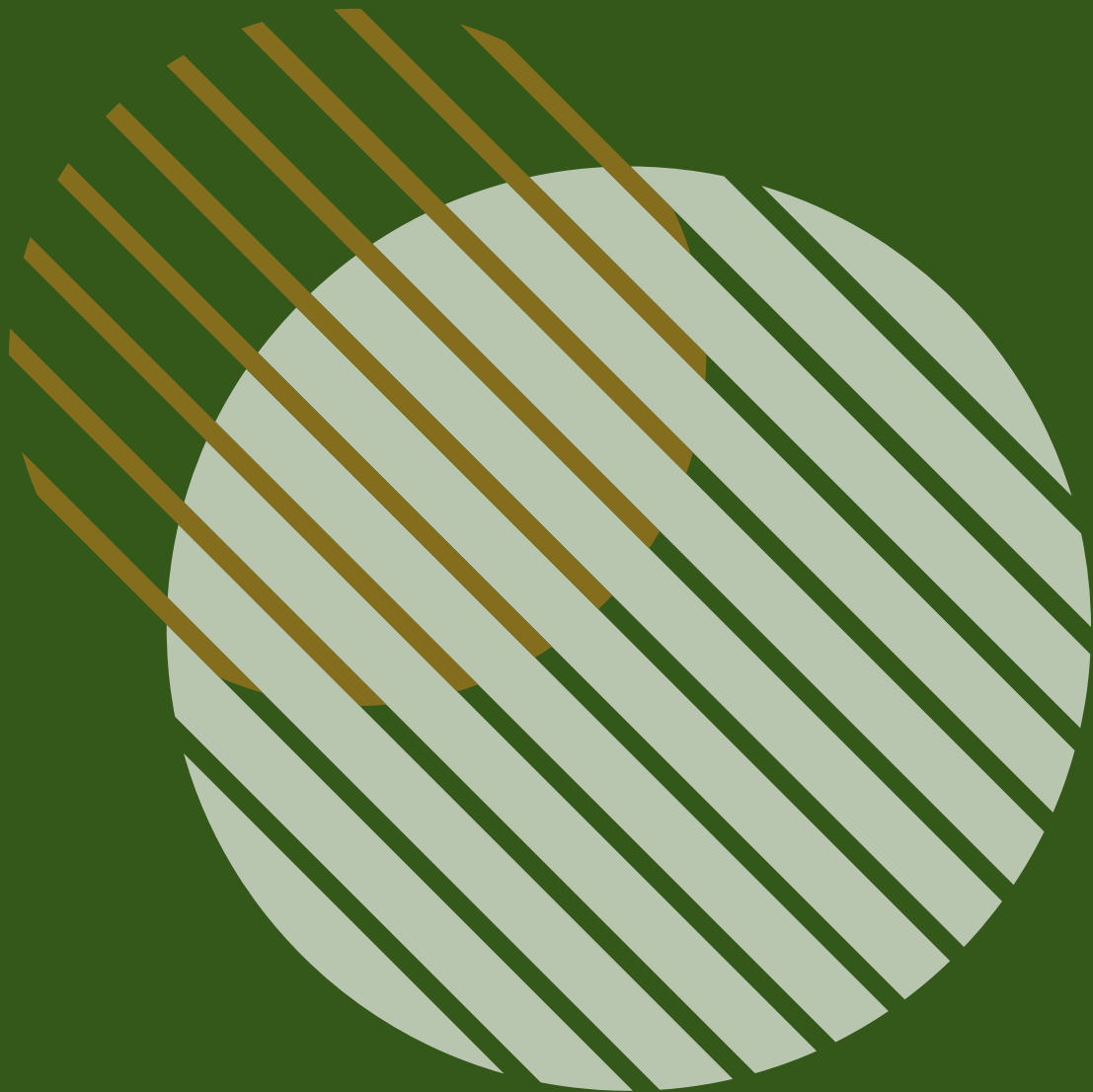
# ENERGY SAVING AIR-CON

If you use power saver mode, then your AC will only use a certain amount of power, which in turns saves energy. Not all AC systems have it but the more modern ones do have it.

**HOW?** Clearly label the Power Save Mode on the remote controls of your A/C units.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the A/C remote controls



● ● ● Based on SDG 8.9, 10.2, 11.3, 11.4

# RESPECT PEOPLE



Show that your rental respects people, tick at least 3:

- Wheelchair-accessible
- Labelling rental door bell
- Noise monitoring tool
- Visible Sustainability Chart
- List of locally sourced food stores
- List of vegetarian restaurants
- List of organic food restaurants
- List of local volunteering work
- List of local heritage sites
- List of off-the-beaten-path sites





# WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

A wheelchair-accessible vacation home typically includes step-free access, wheelchair-friendly rooms, wide doorways and hallways, and amenities, like a roll-in shower in the bathroom or an adjustable bed in the bedrooms.

**HOW?** Search for "wheelchair-accessible vacation homes" to find useful resources

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of the accessibility features

# LABELLING THE DOORBELL

If your rental is located in a building you must label the doorbell with the name of the rental or the name of the property management company. This ensures that neighbours are aware and that guests find the bell easily.

**HOW?** Sticker or name tag

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of the doorbell



# NOISE MONITORING

Real time noise monitoring devices prove that you are respectful of the community, that you are mindful of disturbance or nuisance to our neighbours. They prevent noise pollution, damages and neighbour complaints.

**HOW?** Refer to the [Sustonica website](#) for the best noise tools for vacation rentals

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the noise monitoring tool

# SUSTAINABILITY CHART

Print and frame a Sustainability Chart for your vacation rental, listing all the things that you do with regards to respect of the environment, social equity and economic health. Also list your future goals and show complete transparency.

**HOW?** Sit down with your team and list your sustainability goals. Print and frame.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of the Chart



# DIGITAL GUIDEBOOK LISTS

Promote sustainable tourism and support local businesses that are doing their part to reduce their environmental impact. Cater for people who want to eat less meat to protect the environment. Offer local volunteering work.

- List of locally sourced food stores
- List of vegetarian restaurants
- List of organic food restaurants
- List of local volunteering work
- List of local heritage sites
- List of off-the-beaten-path sites



● ● ● Based on SDG 12.5

# REDUCE WASTE



Your rental is conscious of waste, tick at least 3:

- Digital welcome book
- Waste, Recycling, Compost Bins
- Refillable shampoo & soap dispensers
- Water filter for drinking tap water
- No single use plastic
- Paperless kitchen
- Composting Toilets
- Eco-friendly bed linens
- Canvas bags for shopping
- Reusable water bottles offered



# DIGITAL WELCOME BOOK



You are conscious of paper waste and instead of printing and re-printing your welcome book, you offer a digital one. It not only shows your commitment to sustainability, but it's also more convenient for guests.

**HOW?** Refer to the [Sustonica website](#) for the best digital welcome books

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Link of the digital welcome book

# WASTE, RECYCLING, COMPOST BINS

Encourage your guests (and staff) to sort out waste by making available and clearly labelling the Waste, Recycling and Compost Bins. Provide different waste bags based on the type of recycling.

**HOW?** Clearly labelled Waste, Recycling, Compost Bins available.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the Bins

Shampoo & Soap

# REFILLABLE DISPENSER

Research shows that up to 95% of the plastic used in a hotel bathroom ends up in landfill where they sit for hundreds of years. The easy alternative is to use refillable containers for shampoo, conditioner and soap.

**HOW?** Opt for refillable containers that can be fixed to the wall.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the containers



# TAP WATER FILTERS

Stop leaving plastic water bottles for your guests on arrival. Instead invest in a tap water filter or a filtering jug for the fridge. Water filters eliminate unpleasant tastes, odours and more than 100 substances.

**HOW?** Refer to the [Sustonica website](#) for the best tap water filters for vacation rentals

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the Water filter

# NO SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Single use plastics have a devastating impact on our environment. Eliminate single-use plastic: no complimentary plastic water bottles, eco-friendly packaged cleaning products and refillable shampoo & soap dispensers.

**HOW?** Refillable dispensers, tap water filters and eco-friendly cleaning products.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of your plastic alternatives



# PAPERLESS KITCHEN

While paper towels generally have a small carbon footprint collectively they are contributing to deforestation, global warming, and an ever-increasing waste problem. Paper towels are not recyclable. Parchment paper for baking is not recyclable and not compostable.

**HOW?** Offer silicone baking/roasting mats and washable dish towels for everything else.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of your paper alternatives



# COMPOSTING TOILETS

Composting toilets use bacteria to break down human waste. Unlike conventional toilet systems, there is no flushing involved. Benefits are reducing wastewater use, impact on environment and creating compost for plants.

**HOW?** Composting toilets are common for rentals in rural and mountains areas

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of your composting toilet

# ECO-FRIENDLY BED LINENS

The bedding industry is heavily reliant on cotton as part of its materials, and when it isn't sourced sustainably it can wreak havoc on the environment & local communities. Attention should also be places on the production level in factories.

**HOW?** Look for accredited eco-friendly bedding options

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice of your bed linens

# BRANDED SWAG ENCOURAGING LESS WASTE

Buy in large quantities (to reduce delivery footprint) branded swag encouraging your guests to produce less waste:

- branded refillable water bottles
- branded canvas bags

**HOW?**

Buy from providers who produce sustainability

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of your bottles and/or bags



● ● ● Based on SDG 6

# SAVE WATER



Your rental saves water, tick at least 3:

- Washing machine instructions
- Leak detection systems
- Saltwater Pool
- Dual Flush Toilets
- Low flow faucets
- Low flow shower heads
- Low flow toilets
- Green cleaning products
- Rain sensors on irrigation systems
- Collecting rain water



# WASHING MACHINE INSTRUCTIONS



An apartment wastes approximately 8,000 gallons of water per year on laundry. Read up which is the least water consuming setting and mark it. Also explain that washing a full load of laundry is the most water-efficient choice.

**HOW?** Clearly label the least water consumption setting

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of the washing machine label

# LEAK DETECTION SYSTEM

Water leak detection systems provide maximum protection against water leaks and resulting house flooding with 24/7 monitoring. The system cuts off the water flow to the entirety of the household by closing a valve within the leak detector.

**HOW?** Search for "leak detection systems" in your area on google

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the leak detection system



# SALTWATER POOLS

In general swimming pools are bad for the environment: high water use, high energy use, and harmful chemicals. If you can choose then salt water pools have a smaller impact on the environment than traditional chlorine pools.

**HOW?** Converting a traditional chlorinated pool to a saltwater system is possible.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the saltwater pool

# DUAL FLUSH TOILETS

Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for nearly 30% of an average home's indoor water consumption. With a dual flush toilet, less water is used for liquid waste and more water is used for solid waste.

**HOW?** Get your conventional toilet replaced with a dual flush toilet.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the toilets

Faucets, Shower Heads, Toilets

# LOW-FLOW

Low flow fixtures are specifically designed to limit water waste. The average low flow fixture expels around half the gallons per minute than a standard fixture. Add that up over time, and you can save about a thousand gallons of water per year. Change to low-flow faucets, shower heads and toilets.

**HOW?** Visit your local hardware store and ask for low-flow fixtures

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of your low-flow fixtures



# GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

Green cleaning products are naturally derived, non-toxic, and biodegradable, meaning they have less impact on the environment. They can help lessen both water and air pollution, and effectively fight climate change and ozone depletion.

**HOW?** Use and offer green cleaning products in your rental. Check our website.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of the cleaning products



# RAIN SENSORS

30 to 60% of domestic drinking water is used to water yards and gardens, and often large portions are wasted by over-watering & evaporation. A rain sensor will stop irrigation when it rains.

**HOW?** Rain sensors generally cost between €20 and €60.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Invoice/Photo/Video of your rain sensors

# COLLECTING RAIN WATER

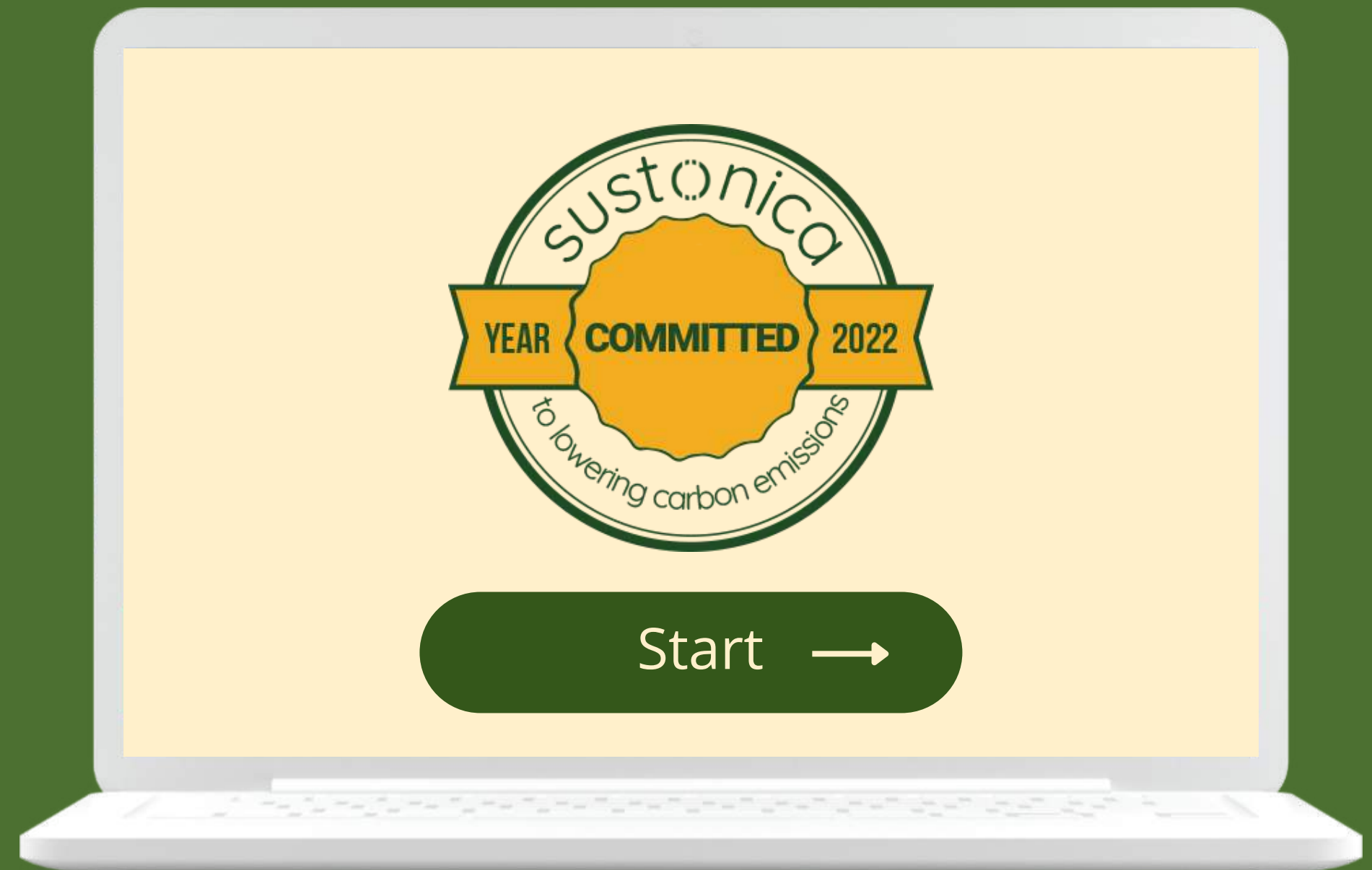
While it’s not always a practical option, in some areas a rainwater tank can be used to supply water to your washing machine and make a big difference to your home’s water usage. Tank water can also be used for gardening and flushing toilets.

**HOW?** Divert the water from drainpipes into a tank & use the water for the garden.

**PROOF TO SEND TO SUSTONICA?**

Photo/Video of how you collect rain water

YOU ARE NOW  
READY TO GET  
YOUR  
**COMMITTED**  
CERTIFICATION!



# ● ● NEXT STEP? GETTING YOUR **HARVESTING** CERTIFICATION

Install the hardware. We connect to your PMS or you can enter guest data manually. Now you can give staff & guests access to the web app encouraging them to lower their consumption.





# SPREAD THE WORD

We help you spread the word so everyone knows you're doing your bit

- On your website
- On your OTA listings
- Inside the rentals
- In your guest communication

# GUIDELINES BASED ON 7 UNITED NATIONS SDG GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

## 6. CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all

### 7.1 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY

By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

### 8.9 PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

### 10.2 PROMOTE UNIVERSAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

### 11.3 INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

### 11.4 PROTECT THE WORLD'S CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

### 12.5 SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

...

**THANK YOU!**