

San Francisco Nightclub's Sustainable Dance Floor

[Raw Energy: Sustainable Dancefloor Weekend](#) from [Temple Nightclub](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Last weekend, 1400 club patrons at [Temple Nightclub](#) in [San Francisco](#) shook their booties and booted up the power of the sustainable dance floor. 480 Watts were generated continuously over the 10 hours of dancing; 30 watts were generated per panel and there were 16 panels. People appreciated the connection between their energy and the energy of the dance floor. For Paul Hemming, Temple Nightclub's founder, this wasn't a one weekend gimmick, but part of his overall vision to make Temple the most [sustainable dance club](#) in the world. **Cross-Cultural Collaboration**

Hemming and staff set out to create a sustainable nightclub in 2006, then they learned in 2007, that there was another group in Rotterdam, Netherlands with the same vision. The clubs have been in communication ever since. They share sustainability strategies and in the process strengthen each other's vision. After working on similar goals, with similar tactics, halfway across the world, it was a great experience for the collaborators to finally be together in the same place. Hemming said "after dreaming about it for five years, it was exciting to see it manifest within the space. It was integral to my original vision to have the dance floor powered by the dancing patrons."

This Wasn't Temple's First Foray Into Sustainability

Sustainable Dance Club's slogan is "People Planet Party" which pretty much encapsulates Temple Nightclub's motto as well. Temple Nightclub is located within the Zen Compound in San Francisco's SOMA district. The Zen Compound, also contains Prana restaurant and the Temple Music Group. Temple's other green initiatives have included a [rooftop garden](#), beehive, and rooftop composting of the restaurant's food scraps. The nightclub has a landfill [diversion rate](#) of 89%. Its sustainability initiatives have resulted in it being the recipient of multiple awards including: 2008 SF Small Business of the Year, [2009 Treehugger's Best of Green Nightclub](#), and a 2010 finalist for Bar & Nightclub Magazine's Best Mega-Club award. In May 2011, Zen Compound will also be the home of Sushi Ki and Izakaya Bar Ki, a [sustainable sushi](#) restaurant.

"The Dance Floor Was A Visible Articulation of A Sustainable Nightclub"

[Mike Zuckerman](#), Temple's Director of Sustainability, was happy with the weekend's turnout . He remarked, "many of our sustainability initiatives happen behind the scenes or on the roof, so they don't get noticed by our clubbing crowd. The dance floor was front and center and a visible articulation of a sustainable nightclub. Composting just isn't as sexy as generating energy while you dance." Zuckerman's sentiment also rang true for David Isaac, Temple's Resident DJ. Isaac said "the dance floor really helped people get into the mood and dance harder which makes for a great vibe." Even Tiny, Temple's 300lb bouncer, was jumping on the dance floor causing the energy meter hit to 100% all on his own and telling everyone else to try it out.

Locally Grown Music and Urban Self-Sufficiency

Even some of the music at Temple is locally grown via in-house label [Temple Music Group](#). The soundtrack to the video is made by Temple's Music Director JasWho? and the song is called Solar Future. Just like the food scraps from the restaurant, that are composted on the roof, and then the compost is used to grow more food for the restaurant, the overall message of sustainability comes full-circle at Temple and is embedded even in their music. At Temple, urban self-sufficiency is the vibe, whether on the roof or getting down on the dance floor. Clubgoer's seem to have gotten the message that they have "got the power."

