best management practices WASTE REDUCTION





Overview

The Hilton Asheville is a LEED Silver Certified Hotel in the mixed-use community of Biltmore Park Town Square in Asheville, NC. The Hilton offers guests numerous amenities, while also achieving notable goals for efficiency. The hotel has 165 guest rooms and suites, an indoor saline pool, fitness center, day spa, restaurant and banquet facilities. The Hilton Asheville was developed to not only be an energy efficient building, but to be a hotel that promotes healthy guests and a healthy environment. Together, these strategies have a major impact on reducing the Hilton Asheville's environmental footprint.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

When the Hilton was under construction, all paints, carpets, pads, and composite woods were purchased with specifications for low voc (volatile organic compounds), 21% of all materials are composed of recycled content, 38% of all materials were extracted and manufactured regionally, and 76% of all wood used was extracted from sustainability managed forests as certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In daily operations, the Hilton purchases from local sources as much as possible to prevent the energy consumption associated with transportation of materials. This includes local produce and meats, local microbrews, furniture, and artwork. The Hilton also buys recycled products when feasible. For example, front office uniforms are made from recycled bottles.

Continued on reverse.



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Type of Facility:

Hotel and Conference Facility



Energy Savings:

25% less energy consumption than a comparable hotel without energy efficient features

Water Savings:

30% less water consumption than a comparable hotel without water efficient features

Recycles:

Plastic, glass, aluminum, newspaper, office paper, cardboard, and food waste

Monthly Recycling Stats:

21 tons recycled or composted

\$200 per month savings

Water and Energy Efficiency

The Hilton consumes 30% less water and 25% less energy than a comparable hotel. There is an extensive solar hot water system that heats all of the water for the guestrooms, laundry, banquet facilities, pool, and the on-site signature restaurant, Roux. In-room linen reuse program is also encouraged.

Solid Waste Reduction

When the Hilton was constructed, over 50% (over 4300 tons), of the construction waste was recycled. Now that the Hilton is fully operational, solid waste reduction has continued to be a goal. Recycling of plastic and glass, cardboard, aluminum, office paper, and newspaper is encouraged throughout the hotel, including the offices, lobby, and guest rooms.



The greatest reduction of operating waste occurs in the Hilton's restaurant, Roux. Roux diverts an average of 100 tons per year food scraps and paper from the landfill through donation of the servable food and composting of the scraps. Food donations are given to various non-profit organizations in the surrounding area. Danny's Dumpsters collects the food scraps and other compostable material to a permitted composting facility. The restaurant also utilizes best practices espoused by the local Metropolitan Sewerage District in using recommended Eco-Tabs in kitchen drains to lessen the impact of garbage disposals on the Asheville Water Treatment System.

Offering Facilities for Green Meetings

In addition to the amenities mentioned above, the Hilton offers services and operational details to allow the opportunity for green meetings and conferences. For example, Natura filtered water is used as an alternative to bottled water in restaurant and banquet areas in order to reduce plastic waste. State of the art technology in meeting rooms allows meetings to become virtually paperless. All paper and pens, which are available upon request, are made from post-consumer materials. Recycling of mixed paper, plastic, and glass is available in all meeting areas. Finally, all windows in meeting areas feature state of the art energy saving shades.



Keys to Success

Employee training is the key to success for the Hilton's sustainability program. The strategies to train employees include role-play, games, and consistent practice. In addition, posting signage in employee-only locations throughout the hotel is critical to educating employees on the procedures for waste reduction. Managers make it a point to follow up with staff and "inspect what you expect." Another key element of the program logistics is the color coordination of containers for solid waste management: Blue = paper only, Green = compostable, and Gray = mixed recyclables (plastic, glass, aluminum, and steel).

Contact Information

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Waste Reduction Partners

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