



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

December 2009

Florida *Green Lodging* Program Quarterly Update

Florida *Green Lodging* Program Update

As Program Coordinator, I am proud to announce that the Florida *Green Lodging* Program recently designated its 600th property. This important milestone was reached on November 20, 2009 with the designation of the Ramada located in Stuart, Florida. The program continues to grow each day and we now boast a total of 609 designated properties.

Since July 1, 2009, the program has designated 54 properties. The majority of these designations have taken place under the new guidelines that were implemented as part of the recent streamlining process. These new guidelines altered the designation process from the previous multi-step process to one that includes an efficient, on-line application process and improved best management practices.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

The Florida *Green Lodging* Program will begin hosting program-related webinars and training events after the start of the New Year. The first webinar, which we plan to host in January, will be focused on the new, streamlined program and will include the following topics:

- What is required to keep the designation?
- How is compliance verified?
- How do I report my environmental performance?
- What educational and marketing resources are available?

Other webinars and training events will follow on a bi-monthly basis. Future topics will include Florida-Friendly Landscaping, How to Sustain Best Practices for Housekeeping Staff, Reducing Waste in the Kitchen and On-site Energy Management. An e-mail invitation will be sent prior to each event.

Housekeeping Survey Results

Thank you to everyone that responded to the recent *Green Lodging* Housekeeping Survey. The goal of the survey was to determine how the *Green Lodging* Program can best assist designated properties in implementing and sustaining towel and linen reuse programs. The results were as follows:

- Respondents indicated that “Language Barriers” were the #1 reason for failing to implement and follow the *Green Lodging* BMPs. “Lack of interest or understanding” was the #2 reason and “No reminder/forget to follow procedures” was #3.
- The three most common languages spoken by housekeeping staff were English (90%), Spanish (75%) and Creole (39%).
- 73% of respondents include information about the *Green Lodging* BMPs in new employee orientation materials.
- Of the variety of options presented, 71% of respondents indicated that they believe that “printed BMP reminder materials” would be assist their housekeeping staff in continuing to implement the *Green Lodging* BMPs.

As a result of the survey, I am pleased to announce that the Florida *Green Lodging* Program will be providing a limited number of laminated “reminder” cards to each designated property. Housekeeping staff will be able to attach these cards to their utility cart or even their key ring. A downloadable copy of the template will be placed on our Web site for use and duplication. Ordering information will be available in the near future.

Best Management Practice Spotlight

Roughly 50 percent of all electricity costs can be directly attributed to the use of HVAC systems. This number increases during times when the weather is unpredictable, such as the transition from fall into winter. In an effort to reduce these costs, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program would like to remind you of the following best management practices:

- Do not operate HVAC units in unoccupied guest rooms.
- When using the heater, set all thermostats to a maximum of 68 degrees. If you continue to use the air conditioner, set thermostats to a minimum of 76 degrees.
- Limit switching between air conditioning and heating operations. Try to maintain a comfortable temperature in all areas.
- Some HVAC systems are equipped with emergency heat settings. Do not use this function for regular or continuous operation.

Vendor Profiles

With the restructuring of the program, one of the areas that changed was the elimination of the vendor partnership directory. **As part of state government, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program and the Department of Environmental Protection do not endorse or sponsor specific vendors, products or services.** However, I believe it is important to provide designated properties with as much information as possible concerning the products and vendors that are available. From this point forward, every Quarterly *Green Lodging* Update will include the list of vendors that have contacted the Program during the preceding three months. The most recent list includes:

- [EarthLinked Technologies](#) – Geothermal heat pumps

- [NatureWorks LLC](#) - Bioplastic containers
- [Keystone Water Company](#) - Bottled water
- [Conex Recycling](#) - Recycling in Tampa Bay
- [CSG Group - PURETi Inc](#) - Water-based surface treatments
- [TechCept Group](#) - Audio, visual and energy management systems
- [LED Lighting of America](#) - LED lighting solutions
- [Renewable Choice Energy](#) - Renewable energy credits, carbon offsets