



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE CARPET AND RUG INSTITUTE

A partnership that will assist the state's hotels and motels to protect Florida's natural resources while at the same time making the lodging industry more viable as a major component of the state's tourism industry.

Background:

Currently, nearly 400,000 rooms are available in over 4,700 hotels and motels in Florida. They serve about 35 million guests annually, contributing almost \$10 billion to the state's economy. These facilities annually generate four percent of the state's municipal solid waste, use 625 million kWh of electricity and consume billions of gallons of water. Not only does the lodging industry have a significant financial impact on the state, it also has an impact on our natural resources.

The Florida Green Lodging Certification Program is an effort by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to encourage the lodging industry to conserve and protect Florida's natural resources through a voluntary certification. Hotels and motels that implement a waste reduction and conservation plan can save money and at the same time minimize their environmental footprint.

As an incentive to Florida's lodging industry, the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program has developed a partnership program with organizations that can supply the state's hotels and motels with information and technical assistance needed to receive and maintain certification in the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program.

General Agreement Between the Partners:

The Carpet and Rug Institute ("CRI") and the Department agree that it is in the interest of the people of Florida to conserve energy, to reduce water consumption, to preserve the quality of our air and to reduce the generation of solid waste in our state. They further agree that Florida's lodging industry and the guests annually utilizing their services have a significant impact on the natural resources of the state.

Through this agreement, **CRI** joins in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Green Lodging Certification Program to encourage the state's lodging industry to conserve and protect Florida's natural resources through a voluntary certification program. **CRI** agrees to use this partnership to promote the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program and to assist the lodging industry to reduce its impacts on Florida's fragile environment.

CRI agrees to do the following:

1. Provide Florida's hotels and motels with technical assistance and information on products and services that can help them preserve the quality of indoor air and to reduce the generation of solid waste in their facilities.
2. Provide web-based listings of products certified by CRI's Green Label, Green Label Plus, and Seal of Approval testing programs. Certified products include carpet, cushion, adhesives, vacuum cleaners, extractors, spot removers, and pre-spray/in-tank cleaning solutions.
3. Add the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program logo and website link to the CRI website www.carpet-rug.org.
4. Promote the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program to hotels and motels in the state that are not Florida Green Lodging Certification Candidates or Certified Facilities.
5. Encourage **CRI** management and staff to utilize Certified Florida Green Lodges for conferences, meetings and travel, where ever practical.

The Department, through its Florida Green Lodging Certification Program, agrees to do the following:

1. Publicly acknowledge and promote **CRI's** commitment to helping assist the state's lodging industry to reduce its impacts on Florida's fragile environment via the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program's webpage www.FloridaGreenLodging.org and in various print materials.
2. Place an acknowledgement of **CRI's** efforts on the State's Florida Green Lodging Locator, www.FloridaGreenLodging.com, a service provided by Earth 911 for potential lodging guests to find environmentally friendly hotels and motels in Florida.
3. Place **CRI's** web link and contact information in the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program's web based technical resource and assistance directory as providers of specific technical assistance and information.
4. Prominently display **CRI's** logo at all Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Green Lodging Certification Program events.

Disclaimer:

Except as explicitly stated above, entry into this agreement does not constitute approval, acceptance, or endorsement of **CRI**, its products or its services by the State of Florida, and **CRI** agrees not to claim or imply that its participation in this Florida Green Lodging Certification Program Partnership has resulted in such approval, acceptance or endorsement. **CRI** understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program Partnership are voluntary and are not intended to provide contractual services to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or State Government. **CRI** therefore agrees that it will not submit a claim for compensation for its performance under this Agreement to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or any other unit of State Government.

Dispute Resolution:

CRI and the Department will assume good faith as a general principle for resolving conflicts under this partnership. Both parties will endeavor to resolve all matters informally, so as to preserve maximum public confidence in the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program. In the event informal channels do not produce a mutually agreeable resolution to a matter in dispute, either party to this agreement shall notify the other in writing as to the nature of the dispute, the specific corrective action sought and their intent to terminate the Partnership Agreement, either as a whole or in part, unless specific corrective actions sought are undertaken.

Entry into Force and Duration of Agreement:

Both parties concur that this agreement and the terms outlined in Appendix A and any additional supporting documents will become effective when signed by both parties and will continue until either party notifies the other in writing as to its decision to withdraw from this agreement. This agreement may be updated at any time to add new areas for which **CRI** seeks recognition as a partner. Both parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by either party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty. Failure to comply with this Partnership Agreement can result in termination of this agreement and authorization to use the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program name or logo.

The undersigned hereby execute this Partnership Agreement, and affirm that each has the authority to execute this agreement on behalf of its respective party.

Partnership Agreement Signatory for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Green Lodging Certification Program:

Signature:

Date:

Mary Jean Yon, Director
Division of Waste Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road (MS 4500)
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Partnership Agreement Signatory for The Carpet and Rug Institute:

Signature:

Date:

Werner Braun, President
Carpet and Rug Institute
P.O. Box 2048
Dalton, GA 30722-2048