

# PALMERHOUSE

A HILTON HOTEL

## Green Initiatives

### Current Practices:

#### Recycling

- Paper:
  - All BOH areas, meeting spaces, and offices have containers for paper recycling
  - Computers are networked to local copiers to reduce ink consumption.
  - Printers are defaulted to print double sided.
  - One side copies are kept and reloaded into the printer for single sided copies.
- Cardboard:
  - Several collection locations throughout the building capture cardboard from the kitchens, meetings, engineering, housekeeping, etc. The cardboard is bailed for recycling.
- Styrofoam:
  - Styrofoam products are no longer used, all existing has been depleted.
- Glass:
  - Glass is collected from BOH and all meeting space for recycling. (Green, Brown, Clear)
- Plastics:
  - All BOH areas, meeting spaces, and offices collect number 1, 2, & 3 plastics for recycling.
- Metals:
  - Aluminum cans are collected in BOH areas for recycling.
  - Precious metals (Brass/Copper/Aluminum/Stainless/Bronze) are collected from several sources throughout the building and picked up for recycling.

#### Waste Reduction

- Waste tracking and benchmarking allows the hotel to view progress of recycling initiatives and set goals for each year.
- Biodegradable "to-go" containers are used in the food outlets to reduce the impact to landfills.
- Corn based cups are used in meetings and banquet functions to reduce the impact on landfills.
- Batteries, fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, waste oil, are all recycled through Allied Waste.
- Electronic waste (e-waste) is recycled through Allied Waste's e-waste program.
- Spent cooking oil is collected and recycled through Mahoney Environmental.
- Furniture is sold to liquidators so that it can be reused for needing households and not into landfills.
- Cornerstone Community Outreach collects shampoo, conditioner and lotion bimonthly.
- Old bed linens/towels are donated annually
- Half used toilet paper rolls from guest rooms are used in team member lockerooms/washrooms
- In house dry cleaning facility collects hangers and reuses them for team member dry cleaning.
- Toner cartridges are returned to supplier for refilling/recycling.

#### Food Waste – Composting Program

- April 2010 began composting program and partnership with Allied Waste. Food scraps are kept separate from trash and collected by Allied to be turned into compost at their plant

### **Roof Top Garden**

- Vegetables and herbs are grown on our roof top container garden. The fresh produce is harvested and used in our outlets

### **Energy Conservation**

- Energy tracking:
  - Computer software is used to track and monitor energy through meter reading. Allows engineering to view reports and compare usage to other Hilton properties. Alarms engineering about peak energy consumptions allowing operators to reduce/shed loads.
- Lighting:
  - Checklists for Manager on Duty and Security to ensure lights are turned off in areas not in use.
  - Compact Florescent light bulbs in guest rooms and back of the house areas.
  - Dimming systems are installed in all ballrooms to save energy.
  - LED and Cold Cathode lighting test are being performed with several options being tested simultaneously for possible replacement to incandescent bulbs.
- HVAC:
  - New HVAC systems have been installed with variable frequency drives (VFD) to save energy.
  - High efficiency motors have been installed on all new fan systems to reduce energy consumption.
  - A building automation system scheduled the HVAC systems to run only when there is a meeting scheduled to avoid unnecessary cooling/heating of a room to save energy.
- Water:
  - Low flow showerheads are Hilton standards to conserve water.
  - All public restrooms have automatic faucets to conserve water.
  - Low flow toilets are used in public restrooms to conserve water.
  - Linen reuse program allow guest to reuse towels to conserve energy and reduce water consumption.
  - Natura Water System offered in Meeting space:
    - The Natura Water System is an environmentally friendly alternative to the waste and energy associated with both bottled water service and tap water in pitchers typically served during meetings.
    - Natura is served in 2 gallon dispensers in all meetings using Corn Cups which are biodegradable within 60 days.
    - The Natura Water System eliminates waste produced by traditional bottled water, reduces the carbon impact of Hilton by reducing the need for shipping, storage and recycling. Detergent and energy for cleaning glass cups is also reduced.
  - Aeterna Filtered Water and Flavored Juice System offered in Lockwood
    - Using the Waterwave system uses a recyclable filter, reusable glass containers, no run-off waste water, paperless and eco-friendly
    - Aeterna offers both filtered sparkling and still water, as well as filtered sparkling and still juices, teas, and flavored water.

### **Guestroom Recycling**

- Guests of the hotel are encouraged to participate in the hotel recycling program by way of a recyclable bag in each guestroom. On the bag are instructions as to what items the hotel recycles, how they can participate, and how they can help the hotels Green Initiatives. Bags are picked up and stored in comingle containers and picked up by Allied waste for sorting and recycling.

- “Caught Green Handed” program recognizes hotel guests for participating in our green initiatives. d Hotel guests who use participate in our guest room recycling program are rewarded with a “Caught Green Handed” reusable shopping tote.

### **Team Member Motivation**

- A committee of team members known as the Green Team work to help educate team members on hotel Green Initiative and ways to conserve energy at the hotel and at home with monthly training topics. The Green Team also sets goals for the hotel and creates new initiatives for the hotel to participate in. The Green Team is steering committee that helps identify inefficiencies and opportunities for the hotel move toward more environmentally friendly practices.
- “Caught Green Handed” program recognizes team members as well as hotel guests for participating in our green initiatives. Team members and Hotel guests who are caught recycling are rewarded with a “Caught Green Handed” reusable shopping tote.

### **Certifications / Recognition and Events / Charity participation:**

- Green Seal Environmental Certification – Bronze Level (GS-33, 2008) for Lodging Properties
- IHLA StayGreen Green Energy Program 2009, 2010, 2011
- IHLA StayGreen Recycling and Waste Minimization Program 2009, 2010, 2011
- IHLA StayGreen Eco-Friendly Products Program 2010, 2011
- Green Globes
- Lights out Chicago-Earth Hour (World Wildlife Federation)
- Earth day – Donate to local charity to plant trees in inner city 2010, Handed out custom “Forget – Me-Not” seed packets to guest 2011
- Treetini Martini – (offered in outlets) a tree is planted for everyone sold:

#### **TREES PLANTED FOR PALMER HOUSE:**

**2009** – 2550 trees

**2010** – 1812 trees

**2011** (so far) – 900 trees

**TOTAL TREES** = 5262 trees planted

### **Future Initiatives:**

Automated lighting controls  
LED lamps for 24/7 public space lighting  
T8 to T12 lighting retro fits.