



## Sheraton Seattle Hotel—Leading the Green Movement

### **Recycling and Composting**

The Sheraton Seattle implemented its recycling program back in 1993. Each department contains designated receptacles to collect recycled goods. The entire Sheraton family practices recycling materials to include: paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, aluminum, fluorescent light bulbs, toner cartridges, oil, batteries and pallets. Composting bins are located in our employee cafeteria, culinary, banquet and room service departments, and in the Daily Grill restaurant.

### **Associates Promoting and Practicing Green Efforts**

Sheraton Seattle's *Green Team* is a cross-departmental group that promotes and advocates green practices in the hotel. The team works to educate associates on ways to be green at work and at home. The *Green Team* invites all associates to participate in environmentally-focused charitable organizations and community events that promote cleaning up the Puget Sound and surrounding bodies of water.

### **Giving Guests the Option to Go Green: "Help the Earth - You Tidy, We Treat" Program**

Like many hotels, each Sheraton Seattle guest room has an opt-in linen and towel replacement program that reduces the amount of chlorine, detergents, and water used in the cleaning process. Sheraton Seattle guests are also presented with an additional option: They may choose to decline housekeeping service – and the cleaning chemicals and energy involved in the process - by hanging a "You Tidy, We Treat" card on the outside of their guest room door before 2am. In return for going green, guests receive a \$5.00 gift card or 500 SPG points for each day they participate. The gift card can be used for In-Room-Dining, at the *In Short Order* coffee bar, the *Daily Grill Restaurant* or the *Lobby Lounge Bar*.

### **Turning Out the Lights!**

The entire Sheraton Seattle Hotel is outfitted with compact florescent bulbs and all meeting rooms feature motion censored lights. With over 75,000 square feet of meeting space, this results in significant energy savings. Energy is conserved in guest rooms through daily light and air conditioning inspections. Employee offices are kept dark overnight, and security lights are on timers. The hotel also features a Building Automation System that allows for a more energy efficient operation of the hotel's HVAC system.

### **Environmental Sustainability: Green Cleaning in Guest Rooms**

All Sheraton Seattle guest rooms are cleaned with green products including; glass, bathroom, and all purpose cleaners, and air freshener. The new cleaning products are composed of a green chemical composition. The new products are highly concentrated and dispensed through a small bag. The design of the container saves energy by reducing the need for packaging, shipping and storing of the products. Water is saved with a dilution controlled dispensing system that ensure proper mix of the chemicals. The dispenser reduces landfill waste up to 80% over a traditional ridged container.



### **Conserving Water and Setting the Standard in Energy Efficiency**

In order to limit water use, the Sheraton Seattle uses 1.5gpm sink faucet aerators and 2.5gpm shower heads in our guestrooms. Highly efficient low flow toilets (1.6 gallons per flush) are used in all guest rooms adding to the water savings.

To save 480,000 watts of electricity, our hotel has replaced a standard electric water heater with an instantaneous steam-to-water heat exchanger. This highly efficient “MAC” system results in a significantly reduced carbon footprint.

### **Make your Meeting Green**

As an alternative to bottled water at your meetings, water bubblers can be provided, resulting in a significant reduction in waste and packaging.. Meeting planners can provide attendees with a logo'd conference water bottle at registration, inviting them to participate in the green movement.

Eating at your meeting can be green as well. Sustainable banquet menus are available for breakfasts, lunches, dinners and refreshment breaks. Sustainably grown products emphasize local and regional farming, managed fishing, and goods that are free of growth hormones, toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

### **Feeling the Green- from the Moment you Arrive in the Emerald City**

In partnership with EnergyBuilt, Sea-Tac Airport opened Washington's first natural gas station to fuel airport vehicles, shuttle vans and taxis. An underground hydrant system for aircrafts has replaced diesel, and a new ramp tower reduces emissions by managing the movement of aircrafts on the ground to reduce traffic and taxi times. Once on the ground at Sea-Tac, there are a number of eco-friendly options for transportation to the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. The *Downtown Airporter* is a carpool-style shuttle service that stops frequently at each of the downtown hotels and costs far less than an individual taxi cab fare. Seattle's Metro bus system also can transport guests to and from the airport, and with over 200 hybrid buses in it's fleet, riding the metro bus is an environmentally friendly option. For group transportation and off-site charters, MTR Western's luxury line of motor coaches is the Green way to travel. This fleet of 74 vehicles is the first to have a “net negative carbon footprint.” They achieve this feat by utilizing next generation, EGR engines and offsetting the remaining emissions by purchasing forest carbon offsets from the Pacific Forest Trust.

Seattle led the nation in curbside recycling, clean drinking water and reduction of climate-changing pollution. In 2005, Mayor Greg Nickels launched the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to advance the goals of the Kyoto Protocol through leadership and action. Mayors from more than 700 cities have since joined in pledging to reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions in their communities and urging the federal government to act. This year, the Washington State Convention & Trade Center introduced the nation's first completely compostable water bottles and was named 2008 Recycler of the Year by the Washington State Recycling Association.