



## Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa

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### 1. Overview

In response to corporate initiatives, as well as skyrocketing prices of electricity and other utilities - the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa began implementing environmental programs in 2007 with a vision of reducing the carbon footprint of this facility, establishing recycling efforts, reducing electric, gas and water usage, and becoming more eco-responsible by educating hotel employees, guests and the general public.

The following are a list of programs instituted in the past year:

- Installation of LED lights in our public area lobbies, all guest room elevator landings, pool lights, and decorative LEDs in the restaurants.
- Replacement of all guest rooms lights to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Installation of 1 GPM sink aerators in all 1,230 guest rooms. Installation of additional sink aerators in the kitchens, reducing water usage from 4 GPM to 2 GPM.
- Arrangements have been made with Honolulu Recovery Systems for daily pick-up of kitchen wet waste to be recycled off-property, thus reducing the amount of wet waste sent to landfills.
- Lighting and air conditioning for the majority of offices and meeting rooms are controlled electronically.
- Installation of new thermostats in guest rooms. We have pre-set the default setting at 71 degrees – which provides adequate cooling to keep the rooms comfortable without being excessive.

- Recycle glass, newspaper, mixed office paper, wet waste (kitchen), and cardboard. Until aluminum and plastic recycling can be arranged, employees are encouraged to take home aluminum cans and plastic bottles for recycling.
- Guest room towel and linen change conservation program – standard of changing linens every 3<sup>rd</sup> day unless more frequent changes are requested by the guest.
- Installation of a landscaping irrigation system on a timer to eliminate over-watering.
- Usable hotel furniture is sold at auctions or sold to employees for their use rather than being simply discarded.
- Separate recycling containers were purchased for each office workspace to encourage recycling in each and every area.
- Installation of 15-minute timers on all housekeeping closets (70 total) to reduce unnecessary electricity usage.
- Re-train associates to turn off lights when not in use. Kitchen personnel re-trained to avoid running water and leaving it running unattended.
- Installation of automated faucet, soap and paper towel dispensers in all public area restrooms as well as the majority of back-of-the-house restrooms.
- Purchased 300 recyclable shopping bags to be used for employee turkey distribution at Thanksgiving, replacing plastic bags used in the past.
- Pre-setting contrast/brightness on in-room televisions to reduce energy usage and increase life of television sets (in-progress).

Another program instituted in the last year is the “1 Plus Waste Management System,” in which an automated notification is made to Honolulu Disposal Service for pickup when the compactor reaches nine tons - the maximum weight allowed on the freeways. Pickup fees are typically charged at a flat rate per pickup - regardless of how full the compactor is, and in the past, regularly scheduled pickups were arranged three times a week. Although this system still needs fine-tuning, we have already seen signs of increased efficiency – by reducing the number of hauls with increased weight per load.

## **2. Program Establishment**

Our Green Team is made up of selected members to ensure representation from every department in the hotel plus additional individuals who expressed a particular passion for the subject. Initial research was conducted on current in-house behaviors, comparing what we were doing right versus what we were doing wrong, and seeing where adjustments could be made. Plans were devised based on those studies. As our program is still very young, there is no strict overall format as yet, and we are presently focusing on cost-effective improvements to the facility, with plans for larger-scaled improvements to be developed in the years to come.

## **3. Goals and Benchmarking**

Our goals are to decrease the amount of energy and resource consumption, preserve the environment, and reduce expenses. We use monthly utility bills to compare differences in electricity, gas and water consumption. Our environmental program is definitely a work in progress with much opportunity to explore and improve many areas. We are re-training our associates to increase their awareness of the environment and encouraging associates to be more accountable for the impact they can make by recycling and breaking habits of throwing anything and everything into the trash.

## **4. Outcomes and Environmental Benefit**

The Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa was recently designated as an Energy Star hotel on October 1, 2008 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “for demonstrating superior energy performance.” This title is awarded to businesses who demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship while lowering energy costs – specifically “commercial buildings which use an average of 40 percent less energy than typical buildings and release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.”

In addition to the Energy Star rating, the Hyatt Regency Waikiki also received a special award in October from the Hawaii Hotel Association in acknowledgement of our green initiatives, and is also a certified by the State of Hawaii as a Hawaii Green Business.

Year-to-date as of November, we have:

- reduced electricity usage by 446, 433 kWh
- reduced gas usage by 9,395 Therms
- reduced water usage by 3,197 M-gallons

## **5. Relevance to Traveler or Travel**

The Hyatt Regency Waikiki is very competitive with other markets in Waikiki, and our environmental efforts have not gone unnoticed. We are motivated to respond to the growing demographic of travelers who are ecologically conscious and may make hotel selections based on green activity/practices.

In November, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts announced an agreement with Natura Water, Inc. to provide guests dining in our restaurants with healthy, safe, environmentally responsible alternative to bottled water, and is the first hotel company to work with Natura on a nationwide basis. "At Hyatt, we strive to minimize our impact on the environment wherever possible by reducing waste and consumption," said Brigitta Witt, vice president, environmental affairs for Hyatt Hotels & Resorts. "The Natura system reduces the waste our hotels send to local landfills, uses locally sourced water with a minimal carbon footprint and is an attractive product for guests who, today more than ever, seek socially responsible choices."

## **6. Real-World Example**

Although the environmental conservation program at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki is still very young, we have already seen positive results from the small, cost-effective steps we have taken in just the last year alone. Such steps include the installation of LEDs and CFLs, water-saving sink aerators in all guest rooms as well as the kitchens, water-saving timers for our landscaping and energy-saving timers on maids' closets, hotel-wide recycling (glass, newspaper, mixed office paper, kitchen wet waste and cardboard), and re-training associates to become more aware of the positive impact they can make on the environment through their individual efforts.