

Florida Green Lodging Program

Miami-Dade County in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection



The Florida Green Lodging Program is a voluntary initiative of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that designates and recognizes lodging facilities making a commitment to conserve and protect Florida's natural resources. Miami-Dade County is collaborating with DEP to facilitate the certification process for local hotels.

Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling

- ✓ Recycle all the materials you can
- ✓ Use reusable goods in place of disposable goods
- ✓ Provide recycling bins for guests at multiple locations throughout the property. Identify items guests can recycle
- ✓ Provide newspapers to guests by request only
- ✓ Minimize or eliminate the use of plastic bags in retail operations
- ✓ Purchase 30% or higher post-consumer recycled content
- ✓ Institute source-reduction such as bulk purchasing, reduced packaging and manufacturer take-back
- ✓ Track waste usage
- ✓ Compost food waste
- ✓ Use refillable containers instead of single-use packets and containers
- ✓ Print and copy documents using both sides of the paper
- ✓ Print advertising, educational and promotional pieces on recycled paper
- ✓ Reuse office paper to take notes
- ✓ Donate excess food, toiletry items, linens, furniture and more to local charities and shelters
- ✓ Replace polystyrene (Styrofoam) with reusable, biodegradable or sustainable products

Communication and Education

- ✓ Discuss green practices and policies at staff meetings
- ✓ Assign a green team
- ✓ Provide green education and training
- ✓ Have staff and managers serve as mentors to assist other facilities seeking to expand their green practices
- ✓ Provide a survey, suggestion box or online evaluation that allows guests and employees to submit feedback on your facility's environmental practices
- ✓ Communicate your facility's environmental practices with guests and staff
- ✓ Share your green practices with the community
- ✓ Include environmental policies in advertising materials and on your business' website
- ✓ Offer guests tours of your facility that highlight environmental improvement projects

Energy

- ✓ Schedule an energy audit through your local energy provider
- ✓ Practice preventive maintenance to maximize appliance efficiency
- ✓ Track energy usage
- ✓ Use energy-efficient lighting such as compact fluorescent bulbs, LEDs or fluorescent tubes
- ✓ Use programmable thermostats for HAVAC
- ✓ Install light sensors or timers in outdoor areas
- ✓ Install Low E, Thermal-rated or tinted windows
- ✓ Use on-site renewable energy power sources such as solar panels or solar hot water heaters
- ✓ Purchase at least 5% green power or renewable energy certificates from a green power generation source in Florida
- ✓ Implement key-card technology to control guest room energy use
- ✓ Use Energy Star products





Indoor Air Quality

- ✓ Use at least two environmentally-friendly cleaners that have a third-party green cleaning designation; or ensure they are biodegradable and do not contain NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid), chlorine bleach or phosphates
- ✓ Use air filters with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) of 8 or better
- ✓ Clean all air handler units and coils at least once a year. Keep and follow a preventive maintenance schedule and a record of activities
- ✓ Properly label and store all chemicals
- ✓ Check the HVAC system regularly for mold and bacteria, obstructions to air flow and clean drip pans
- ✓ Drain condensate or any liquid from HVAC maintenance to the sanitary sewer, not to the stormwater drain
- ✓ Maintain a relative humidity between 35% and 55% throughout the facility
- ✓ Use an integrated pest management system to control indoor pests
- ✓ Vent all exhaust fans to go outside
- ✓ Use dehumidifiers
- ✓ Make all indoor facilities 100% smoke free, including guest rooms
- ✓ Ensure high moisture areas such as kitchens and laundry rooms are well-ventilated
- ✓ Use low or No-VOC paints and finishes
- ✓ Regularly conduct tests for gases such as carbon monoxide and radon, and materials such as lead paint and asbestos
- ✓ Eliminate or minimize use of ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) such as refrigerants and aerosols. Ensure existing CFC products are recovered, recycled and properly disposed



Water Conservation

- ✓ Offer a towel and linen reuse program in guest rooms
- ✓ Practice preventive maintenance to find and repair leaky faucets, toilets and pipes
- ✓ Track water and wastewater usage
- ✓ Have a water assessment conducted by local utility or agency
- ✓ Use high-efficiency faucets, with flows of 1.5 gallons or less per minute, in guest rooms
- ✓ Use high-efficiency toilets, with flows of 1.2 gallons or less per minute, in guest rooms
- ✓ Use waterless urinals in men's restrooms
- ✓ Use high-efficiency, pre-rinse spray nozzles, with flows of 1.25 gallons or less per minute, in the kitchen
- ✓ Use final rinse water as pre-rinse water for subsequent cycles in washing machines
- ✓ Install high-efficiency showerheads, with flows of 1.5 gallons or less per minute, in guest rooms
- ✓ Use counter-current rinsing or high-efficiency Energy Star dishwashers
- ✓ Practice Florida Friendly landscaping, including drought-tolerant plants, rain gauges, soil moisture sensors and efficient irrigation practices
- ✓ Inspect, clean and adjust cooling towers, ice machines, boilers/hot water heaters, dishwashers and washing machines to maximize efficiency



Transportation

- ✓ Encourage customers and staff to car pool, walk, bus or bicycle to your business by providing bus schedules, reduced-rate transit passes, routes or maps
- ✓ Enhance your car fleet with the use of hybrid-electric, biodiesel, E85 (Ethanol), electric or other energy-efficient vehicles. Also, encourage guests and staff by reserving prime parking locations for these vehicles
- ✓ Purchase carbon credits or green tags from nonprofits to off-set CO₂ emissions