

Analyzing Green Practices at HOTELS

According to the U.S. Travel Data Center, 43 million U.S. Travelers are “ecologically concerned.” As growing numbers of Americans realize they must protect the beauty of their favorite destinations, the demand for “green” travel experience has grown. Ecotourism, by its traditional definition, is travel that honors the environment and has as little impact as possible. You can assess the environmental practices of your hotel with the below guide.



Environmental business practices to look for

You may be able to recognize new ideas and techniques that could improve the sustainability of your hotel’s operations. Review the list below and then ask: **If you were in charge of the hotel, would you be able to implement any of these steps? Why or why not? If your employer is already doing some of the following, when did they begin doing so and why?**

- Offers a hotel linen program that gives guests the option to not change their sheets and towels every day
- Showers, toilets and sinks that utilize “low flow” hardware to decrease water waste
- Uses energy efficient light bulbs and appliances
- Uses motion detectors to automatically turn off lights that are not in use
- Offers recycling bins in guest rooms and common areas
- Environmental programs or events are listed on the “things to do in the area” Guides
- Uses renewable energy sources such as wind or solar power
- Composts food scraps and/ or donates food leftovers
- Provides shuttles, bicycles, or promotes public transit to offer guests alternatives to driving

Tell us what you found out through an essay, art project or photos at: [greenheartwork@ cci-exchange.org](mailto:greenheartwork@cci-exchange.org)