



To become a Maryland Green Travel Partner, an applicant must self-certify that they are practicing certain environmental activities relative to their industry. Additionally, they must commit to strive to improve their environmental practices and report back annually.



LaQuinta Inn & Suites-Ocean City

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Management and Leadership

We use the following best management practices:

- **Environment Policy Statement**
- **Environmental Team:** The environmental team would have to be described as our entire staff as they are all critical to the hotel's green policy. Each employee from the maids and laundry to the front desk and breakfast attendants can make an impact in reducing waste and using resources efficiently. Our GM holds monthly meetings with the entire staff to bring up green goals and review progress on current initiatives. The GM also meets regularly with individual units, front desk staff, maids, management, to review group goals, gather opinions of the staff, and develop strategies to overcome new problems.
- **Set Annual Goals:** As a brand new hotel we are using this first year we are open as a benchmark. We have many goals in mind in regards to cleaning, recycling, and reducing the consumption of energy for the operation of our building. As every month goes by we will reset goals based on our previous performance as we learn about our own capabilities as well as the requirements for operating the hotel and satisfying the guests. Resetting our goals each month will be incredibly important for us because our home, Ocean City, MD is a seasonal resort beach town. The fluctuation of customers and the demand on the building and staff will dramatically change during different points of the year. After the first full year we hope to have developed a green policy that would account for all the different seasons we experience and make the goals we set more realistic.
- We have a purchasing policy to encourage the **purchase of environmentally-friendly products and services:** As a pet-friendly hotel we provide customers with canines biodegradable bags outside in our puppy station. We work with our vendor Ecolab, to purchase cleaning supplies that are environmentally friendly and use products in our laundry that makes our machines more efficient.
- **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects:** As a new hotel we have had little opportunity as of yet to get involved in green initiatives in the community. However, one aspect that could be considered as thoughtful of our environmental restoration is the installation of a specific type of brick around the grounds of the entire property that allows water to better permeate through the material and into the ground.
- **Independently Audited Environmental Management System:** Based on the definitions provided above we are implementing a basic EMS system. We will review our goals as a business and look at methods in reducing our environmental impact.

Waste Reduction

We use the following best management practices:

- Have a plan in place to reduce property waste

Water Conservation

We use the following best management practices:

- Have a plan in place to reduce property water usage
- Track water bills and established baseline data on water usage and wastewater generation
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Assessed production for water-conserving opportunities during cleaning procedures
- Use microfiber technology mops
- Defrost foods ahead of time in refrigerators to avoid the need for running-water defrost

Use or installed the following devices:

- automatic or sensor faucets or toilets in public restrooms

Have an effective landscape management plan which utilizes:

- native species

Have an effective storm water plan management including:

- Pervious pavement, and/or minimization of impervious areas like paving, concrete, etc

Our Innovative Ideas and Specifics in Water Conservation and Efficiency:

- We have installed energy star rated ice machines. We have also installed two energy efficient water booster pumps for the building that qualified for the Delmarva Energy Savings Program.

Energy Efficiency

We use the following best management practices:

- Have a plan in place to reduce property energy usage
- Track overall energy bills and establish baseline energy usage

Kitchen:

- Confirmed that all refrigerator, freezer and oven gaskets provide a good seal, or replaced
- Routinely clean condenser coils on all refrigeration equipment
- Implemented a startup / shutdown procedure which specifies timing for lighting, kitchen equipment, room temperature, etc.

Lighting:

- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Minimize the use of lighting during night cleaning
- Use of directional, downward-facing, lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas
- Use high efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs in rooms, canned lighting or wherever possible
- We have installed LED or CFL bulbs in every lighting device in the building. All of our lighting, interior and exterior, qualified for the Delmarva Energy Savings Program.

Heating and Cooling:

- Have a high efficiency heating and air-conditioning HVAC system
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system

- Track overall waste bills and established baseline data for quantity of wastes produced

Guest Rooms

- Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items

Kitchen and Prep / Dining / Catering / Meetings and Events / Campground Snack Bar

- Use effective food inventory control to minimize waste
- Purchase locally grown produce and other foods
- Purchase [organic foods](#)
- Use cloth napkins and tablecloths
- Use water pitchers and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Launder staff uniforms using wet or other environmentally friendly methods versus chemical-based dry cleaning

Restrooms

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Use high-efficiency hand-dryers

Registration / Office

- Use last-in/first-out inventory and effective labeling systems
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Encourage suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials
- Purchase recycled paper with a high percentage recycled content
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials and avoid making extra copies
- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes

Buildings and Grounds

- Use [green cleaning chemicals](#)
- Dispense cleaning agents in bulk to reduce quantities used
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Reuse paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents - required by [EPA regulations](#)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers in landscaping

Recycling

We are recycling:

- Office Paper
- Printer and copy machine toner cartridges
- Electronics equipment (required by [EPA regulations](#))
- Our property is located in an area where a comprehensive recycling program is not available and have developed a written explanation of the recycling opportunities that are provided

We are not able to recycle certain items:

- Our city works with a Energy Resource Recovery Facility, which is owned and operated by Covanta. They take the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and sends it to the facility where the MSW is used in lieu of fossil fuels to generate heat and produce steam. The steam is then used to turn turbines that produce electricity.

- Have programmable thermostats for each room and ensure they are properly adjusted
- Have a centrally controlled HVAC system that is activated only when occupied
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on
- Housekeeping closes blinds and resets optimal temperatures
- Have installed additional insulation

Energy Efficiency:

- [ENERGY STAR computers, appliances, office equipments etc.](#)
- Turn off all electrical items in unoccupied rooms when not in use or at the end of the day

Our Innovative Ideas and Specifics in Energy Conservation and Efficiency

- We purchased energy star refrigerator and freezer for our breakfast pantry. We also installed VRF, Variable Refrigerant Flow, HVAC system that qualified for the Delmarva Energy Savings Program. We also intend to add solar panels to the roof in the coming future.

Linen Service and Laundry

We use these best management practices:

- Provide optional linen service - Change linens only upon request
- Train staff on the process for optional linen service
- Have [water - and energy-efficient washers and dryers](#)
- Minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals

Recycle Grease

Our Innovative Ideas and Specifics in Recycling Grease:

- We will have a restaurant in the next 6-12 months and intend to recycle the grease.

Minimize Disposable Food Service Items

We use the following best management practices:

- Use disposable foodservice items made with recycled content

Green Events

We use the following best management practices:

- Minimize the use of disposable food service items
- Use electronic registration, correspondence and forms
- Use double-sided printing and copying
- Use green signage at the event

Activities we undertake to make our events green are:

- We have a meeting space that is a little under 1000 sq feet. It has been booked for building board meetings, family reunions, and group reception or lecture meetings.

Maryland Green Travel is a partnership between the Maryland Office of Tourism, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Tourism Coalition.

