

Green hotel

When we are traveling, where do we want to stay during the trip? Most of us like to stay in fancy hotels so that we can enjoy all the services and have a good time. Like most people, when I am traveling I like to stay in a luxurious hotel. I like the great service and I don't even have to worry about cleaning. I get to eat fancy food and I don't have to worry about anything. But, this enjoyment comes at the cost of something much more bigger that we don't always talk or think about. Our environment is seriously damaged by the way hotels carry out their daily processes and this may worry some people. Now you don't have to worry so much because hotels are going green. For example, San Francisco luxury hotels like The Orchard Garden, The Marriott, The Nikko Hotel and many more are becoming green so now when you're out on your vacation you don't have to worry about staying at a luxury hotel and feeling bad about the environment.

What does the word green hotel mean to you? There are many ways to define green, and it really depends on what you think green means to you. Some hotels think doing something small and starting with that is being green because they are taking little steps at a time to become a green hotel. On the other hand some hotels think that you have to renovate the whole building from ground to top to call yourself a green hotel. If a hotel is just starting to go green, there is a disagreement about if they should be able to define themselves as green. Some people think that hotels should be rated to have green status. I feel that you should call your hotel a green hotel because you're starting and in time you do so much more to become green. In my opinion, small

hotel businesses that are doing small green practices should be called a green hotel.

A lot of hotels are going green because it attracts customers, it saves them a lot of money in the long run, and it's helping the environment. Orchard Garden is one of the hotels that has been built from ground up using sustainable products that were developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Orchard earned the "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design" (LEED) certification. ("Orchard garden hotel,") The Orchard Garden is doing many things to make the hotel more environmentally friendly, so the guest and staff could do their parts to help the environment. In the Orchard Garden hotel they use 0% toxic chemicals. ("Orchard garden hotel,") Every single product they buy is checked to see if there are any harmful chemicals. Each product is checked to see what type of ingredients are used and if there are any toxic chemicals orchard staff do not purchase that product.

Businesses that are going green are using green products to make the hotel safer for the employees and for the guests to stay in. Few hotels are using products that have less chemicals in the products. The hotels that are using products that have no harmful chemicals are very difficult to find because it is very hard to find products that have no sorts of chemicals in them. Any businesses that are buying products have to think about what technique is used to make the product. The technique that is used in the production of the product is what is harmful for the environment as well as for human beings that work in the factory. Hotels also have to think about the materials they use for the wrapping process and the storage containers they use.

Green products contain natural and biodegradable substances and are made using

techniques that do not harm the environment. They can use products that are environmentally friendly such as organic products that do not harm people and do not leave pollutants in the air. The hotels can also start using light bulbs that are called compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL light bulbs). These light bulbs emit less energy, up to 75% less energy. The hotel can save a lot of money on their energy bills. The money the hotel saves will help them to be more resourceful about being green.

The green hotel business needs products like glass cleaner, amenities, and trash bags that are either recyclable or biodegradable. A lot of supplies are needed to keep the hotel running and for the guests to have a great time, so the clients would choose that hotel the next time they come. Using products that are green may be expensive at first but in the long run it benefits the hotel a lot. For example, if a hotel installs low flow showers, sinks and toilets in the bathrooms, they are very expensive when first purchased. In time the hotel will see that it is saving a lot of money.

Hotels are in a way going green to attract more people and make money but the other side of it is to save money on resources. Although converting a hotel to being entirely green will be expensive, in the long run, it actually will be a good investment. The first hotel in San Francisco to go green was the Hotel Carlton. ("Hotel carlton,")Hotel Carlton partnered with San Francisco-based Sunlight Electric to install 105 solar panels covering 1,332 square feet on the hotel's roof. The solar panels are expected to reduce the hotel's electricity usage by 12 percent, reduce the release of carbon into the environment by 33,000 pounds per year and save about 4.5 acres of trees per year.# (citation) These days, people like to be associated with things that are helping the

planet, not destroying it. Making a hotel green brings in more people which ultimately brings in more money. It comes back to the idea of spending money to make money.

Unfortunately, some hotels do not have the money and therefore are not going ahead with the plans. In present times, money is scarce for a lot of people. Hotels need to be backed by the government for funding. Of course all hotels can begin to go green by taking it a step at a time. They don't have to necessarily update everything at once. They can start with something small and make their way up. Or they can update only the most vital resource saving utilities and once they save up enough money, they can start on the other stuff.

Do you want to become a green hotel? If so then here are some green practices different hotels do to make the hotel environmentally friendly. You could follow these green practices in your own business. In hotels, there are many different departments. Each looks over everything that goes in to that specific department. The departments in hotel are Room Division, Food & Beverage Department, Culinary Operations, Sales & Marketing, Accounting, Engineering Maintenance, Security, and Human Resources.

The Rooms Division looks over all of the services that guests expect during their stay in a hotel. There are five different departments under room division department. The five departments under Room division are Front Office or Front Desk, Reservations, Housekeeping, Uniformed Services, and Telephone.

In each department there is some green practice that you could do to make the hotel green. The green practices in front office or front desk department are the filing paper that you

used after few year u could recycle them, and you could updated everything in the computer system which lets the company check files when necessary. You could also make sure that recycle bins are put around the front desk area. Guest key cards are made with eco-friendly material. Lights are turned off during day hours and that compact fluorescent light bulbs are used are the lobby area and the room.

The reservation department does most the work over the phone and computer system. So that department doesn't have to waste paper or ink that's being green. But in other hand phone and computer use up electricity so what you could do is in the reservation department is use compact fluorescent light bulbs in work place to use less energy, put their computer in power saver which allows them to use less energy save them money in their electricity bill and help the environment. And by using phone and computer you're getting your electricity bill up but you're also saving energy in other ways so that could help lower a little as well.

The Housekeeping Department does a lot of green practices as well. You could have a reusable towel program. With the help of this program, the customers can tell the housekeeping department when they want or don't want their towels to be changed. The hotel has flyer in room to lets the hotel guests know about the program and make clients aware of the green practice. So the guest could do their part to help the environment. The housekeeping department could also have soap, shampoo, conditioner and other bath amenities that are made locally with organic products. The hotel could also have in room recycle bin. In guestroom you could have key card control system which allows the guest to turn off all the light in the room by placing their key card in the control system to turn the light on and off. The glass cleaner product you could buy

that are made with organic product without any toxic chemical, you could also have low flow water in the bathroom, and replace all the light in room to Compact fluorescent light.

The Uniformed Services department help customer with their baggage and direct them to Concierge where the clients could get help to book a reservations to a restaurants or buy a museum tickets or book a tour. The concierge has flyer or brochure of all the event, restaurants, museum, tour that goes on in the city. So if you have flyer and brochure have them on a recyclable paper or recyclable materials by doing this if they flyer get updated the old ones could get recycle and that help the environment.

The next department is the Food & Beverage Department which overlooks Quick Service, Table Service, Specialty Restaurants, Coffee Shops, Bars, Lounges, Clubs, Banquets, Catering Functions (Wedding, Birthday, ETC), and Room Service.

In the food and beverage department they have organic wine and organic food products in every honor bar. All the hotel room should have organic coffee in the room. The menu should be made with recyclable paper, as well as the ink that is used for the menu is made with soy ink which doesn't have any toxic chemicals in it. In the table service or specialty restaurant the water should be served in pitchers or from a pitcher that way the bottles don't get wasted as much. They should have reusable glassware. The plates, forks, and knives should be recyclable if the guest decides to take the food to go. And also the food containers should be compostable.

The quick service is a place where you get your order really fast. In this department what you could do is get a lot of container that are compostable. Also having recycling bin, compost

bin in the kitchen area as well as outside where the guest could throw container in compost bin and other recycling materials in recycle bin would help a lot in our environment.

If there is a big function like a wedding or birthday the catering function should have a program where the leftover food from big function like a wedding or birthday could be donate to some kind of organization where they take the food to people who are hungry and starving rather than just throw all the food away. That way people who are hungry could also get feed and you don't have to worry about the throw all the food away. And also planning a huge event at a hotel you should have recycling bin and composting bin around.

The third department deals with the Culinary Operations dealing in the preparation of all types of food and cuisine that are created within the kitchen. The areas to be covered may include: restaurant, bar, bakery, and buffet/ banquets. All the food is from local farmers markets, products are bought in returnable, reusable or recyclable containers, they use take-out containers that can be composted (paper) or recycled, and in the kitchen they had recycling bins & composting bins. In some hotels the restaurants are partnered with a food bank or meal program. The hotel donates edible food that is left over. You could install high efficiency kitchen equipment such as dishwashers, ovens, Refrigerators, holding cabinets and steamers. Also, in the kitchen you use low flow Pre-Rinse spray nozzles at the dish machine.

The other departments in a hotel are sales & marketing, accounting, engineering maintenance, Security, and Human Resources. In sales & marketing, they could make and advertisements on the radio about their business. It's an old way but people do listen to the

radio every now and then. They can also use recycled paper or materials when they're making advertisement flyers, using Compact fluorescent light bulbs throughout the whole building, and using wood furniture that is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified.

Businesses are going green because there is a money saving incentive, they can save a lot of money by going green because they can start to use more organic products and they can attract more customers because many people like to feel good that they are staying in a hotel where they are actually helping the environment. I believe in doing something that would help the environment.

The company can use different recycling programs such as having the different bins for different products such as compost, landfill and bottles/cans. This helps the people who visit the hotel to have more incentive in helping the environment and also at the same time making it very easy and accessible for everyone. However putting recycle bins in hotel rooms can be complicated. Housekeeping carts have to be changed to keep recycled materials separate from other garbage, the workers have to be trained in new procedures, and the recyclable materials have to be sorted and stored at the hotel before being taken away. Kimpton Hotels has saved over \$200,000 a year through the in room recycling programs. Having recycling bins in the rooms benefits everyone, the hotel saves money, and the guests can contribute and get used to recycling.

Employers can attract employees by showing how they can make a difference in the environment by working for a hotel that has gone green. Working in a hotel that is certified for

being green can have long lasting effects on employees. Employees can take the knowledge they have gained from work and use it in their daily lives, they can teach others about the importance of going green. Who wouldn't want to help reduce the amount of pollution on Earth? Maybe someone who was never interested in working to better the planet can get a job at a Green hotel and start doing their part. In time, maybe this person would realize just how great it is.

Interview

The person I interviewed for my research paper is Meena Patel. She is the owner of best western inn, comfort suites, and many other small local hotels in Texas. I asked her a question about what is the reason that businesses are going green is it to attract more customers? she believes that the hotels are going green not just to attract more tourist it also to do what is right for the environment and in the process it also attract customers to come she said “ I think that the main motive of the hotels is to attract customers and a switch to green business helps attract more customers. But there is definitely a personal drive to switch to green business. This way, hotels are not only attracting more customers, the hotels help keep the environment clean and hotel business could also make a profit”. Then I asked her what the most difficulties to make a hotel green? She said the most difficulties to make the hotel green are to make changes in a hotel she said “The single most difficult thing is to make a change in the way the hotels operate. It takes a lot of effort in money and time to make a hotel green.” I asked her what kind of recycling program hotels have? She said it depends on the hotel you go to because the recycling programs also depend on how much that hotel is will to put the effort to do it. There are a lot of different recycling program out there so it depends and the hotel. She also said that” It depends on the hotel that you go to. I mean some

hotels are fully equipped to recycle almost everything that they produce as waste. Where as other hotels can only recycle paper or aluminum.” The other question I asked is that how can you use being green to beat your competition in the hotel business? She said that now in the industry is get very competitive and having a lot of green practice helps a little in the business she also said “Today’s hotel industry is very competitive and the hotels that have more recycling programs are always at an advantage as they get more environment conscious customers.” Then I ask her what make the hotel green? She answer that everything you work with that deals with waste could define as green hotel she said that “Everything from the way a hotel works to the way it handles its waste can define a green hotel. It surely depends on the amount of recycling and reusing is done in the hotel. Energy efficiency is also a big part of this whole movement. There are innumerable ways to define green hotels and I don’t think it would be fair to name just a few of the things that make a hotel green.”

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