

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

South Carolina's hospitality industry is a large consumer. Each facility purchases goods and services, creates and manages waste, uses energy and water, and just like an individual leaves an environmental footprint. Operating in an environmentally responsible fashion, the state's hospitality industry can lead by example with everyday, cost-effective practices that help protect and preserve South Carolina's environment as well as the quality of life for all South Carolinians. This "Best Management Practices" (BMP) fact sheet is part of a series.

Setting Up a 'Green Team,' Developing an Environmental Policy

Why should you green your hotel, motel, restaurant, bar or other hospitality facility? The benefits are many and include the following.

- * **Reduce your environmental impact.** Your facility along with South Carolina's hospitality industry can take a leadership role in conserving natural resources, saving energy, reducing pollution and helping to protect the state's environment.
- * **Lower operating costs.** Waste reduction, reuse and recycling may help your facility reduce its disposal costs. Energy-saving measures saves money. Water-saving equipment and practices reduce costs. Some environmentally preferred purchasing practices help save money, too. See the BMP fact sheet at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/green_hospitality/pubs/bmp_epp.pdf.
- * **Increase competitiveness.** Research shows that more and more consumers are considering environmental issues when making travel plans and purchases. Green practices will enhance the marketability of your facility as an environmentally friendly business.
- * **Protect human health.** Green cleaning supplies help protect staff and guests, protect air quality and reduce the amount of hazardous material

that must be managed. Waste reduction and recycling also help to prevent pollution.

- * **Earn recognition.** Your facility has the chance to earn recognition for going green from various organizations including the S.C. Hospitality Alliance. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/green_hospitality/awards.htm.

Get started with a 'Green Team.'

Assemble a "Green Team." This group of employees will develop and oversee the implementation of the facility's environmental policy. A Green Team is usually comprised of individuals from each area or department of the facility including:

- * housekeeping;
- * kitchen/restaurant/bar;
- * office;
- * operations/maintenance;
- * grounds; and
- * management.

Develop an environmental policy.

When developing an environmental policy it is important to advise staff of the guidelines. Include

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The Green Hospitality Program is offered by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office). To learn about the program or for help setting up, implementing or improving green practices, call the Office at 1-800-768-7348 or visit www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality.

your policy and initiatives in your advertisements to show off your environmental efforts while promoting environmental awareness to your customers. Provided below is The Walt Disney Company's environmental policy and links to other policies.

* **National Resource Defense Council** offers a ready-to-use statement with links to example corporate policies. Visit the Council's Web site – www.nrdc.org/enterprise/greeningadvisor/gpp-environ_policy.asp – for details.

* **Georgia's Pollution Prevention Assistance Division** provides a comprehensive list of companies with links to their environmental policy. Visit www.p2ad.org/toolkit/resources_sample_environmental_policies.html.

* **The N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance** offers a list of eight, ready-to-use policies. Visit www.p2pays.org/porktool/samples/Policy.pdf for more information.

The Walt Disney Company Environmental Policy

The Walt Disney Company seeks to establish and sustain a positive environmental legacy for Disney and for future generations. In doing so, the company is committed to minimizing its overall impact on the environment while encouraging and activating environmentally responsible behavior on the part of Cast Members and employees, Guests and business associates throughout the world.

Specifically, Disney aims to conserve water, energy and ecosystems; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to minimize waste; and to inspire public consciousness in support of environmental sustainability. The company seeks to identify, measure and understand the direct and indirect impact of its operations and develop innovative and realistic solutions for mitigating those impacts. It also complies with, and in some cases exceeds, environmental laws and regulations.

Finally, the company is committed to communicating regularly its progress in implementing the policies and achieving the targets that it has established.

KEY FOCUS AREAS: Disney's environmental policy consists of the following focus areas:

WATER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION: Improve water and energy efficiencies in existing operations. Invest in new technologies and systems that enhance water and energy conservation. Include water and energy management as an

integral part of planning for future projects to reduce the consumption of water and energy.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS REDUCTION: Reduce GHG emissions by identifying the sources and implementing solutions, including source elimination, efficiency improvement, minimizing transportation and other fuels, and increasing the use of clean fuels. Examine the supply chain to achieve improvement.

WASTE MINIMIZATION: Minimize waste in our operations and business activities. Dispose of waste conscientiously and creatively by making "reduce/reuse/recycle" the standard operating procedure. Incorporate waste reduction into the design of products, programs and facilities; reduce waste through innovative product development, supply chain management, and end-of-life recycling.

ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION: Promote wildlife and habitat conservation through cooperative efforts with the scientific and academic communities and organizations committed to preserving the Earth's biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Effectively plan and manage conservation lands for the preservation of native plant and animal species. Integrate natural resource conservation in future planning, development and operations activities.

INSPIRE ACTION: Engage and inspire employees, Guests, viewers, interested parties and business associates to make positive impacts on the environment. Integrate environmental messaging into products, guest experiences and media platforms worldwide.

SOURCE: <http://disney.go.com/crreport/environment/environmentalpolicy.html>



The **S.C. Green Hospitality Alliance** is a free, voluntary program designed to: 1) help South Carolina's hospitality industry reduce the environmental impact of its operations as well as incorporate environmental stewardship and sustainability in its business practices; and 2) promote and recognize member hotels, restaurants as well as other hospitality facilities for their environmentally conscious practices. The Alliance was developed in partnership by the S.C. Restaurant & Lodging Association and DHEC's Green Hospitality Program.

For more information, call DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality.

