

# ST REGIS

ASPEN

**Contact:** Shannon Huddy  
Public Relations Specialist  
(970) 544-2488  
Shannon.huddy@stregis.com

## FACT SHEET – The St. Regis Aspen Resort Green Initiatives

### Implementation

The St. Regis Aspen Resort formed a Green Committee in March 2008. The committee is made up of 16 employees representing each department of the hotel. The committee meets monthly to brainstorm on innovative ways increase the hotel's efficiency and staff awareness of environmental issues. The Green Committee is an evolution of the former Energy Committee, which was formed in 2000.

### Energy Conservation

- § Solar E-Tubes – The resort has completed a large capital investment in solar Evacuation Tube technology, which enables the resort to decrease its dependence on natural gas. Using the sun's energy, the over 1300 solar e-tubes mounted on the hotel's main building roof heat a liquid solution in vacuum tubes, which resemble copper and glass torpedoes, to temperatures above boiling point at the tips of the tubes. A water and glycol solution will then circulate around the tops of the tubes and tie in to the resort's domestic water preheat loop through the use of heat exchangers. There it provides heat for domestic water for sinks and showers, and the heated pool and whirlpool. Any excess solar capacity goes into a domestic water storage tank that can store over 2800 gallons of solar heated water -- dispensing it to the guestrooms at the programmed temperature as needed by means of a sophisticated electronic mixing valve.
- § 3-way Compact Fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) are currently in all guest rooms, which totals to approximately 2,150 light bulbs. Before the switchover, if all lights in a guest room were on, those bulbs would use 1,055 watts of electricity. With the new CFLs, the maximum wattage used is 173 – an improvement of over 600% less lighting energy.
- § CFLs are used in all meeting room and ballroom can lights
- § CFLs are used in all corridor sconces.
- § T-8 Fluorescent Tubes are used in all offices.
- § The hotel uses energy-efficient, low-voltage bulbs in its landscape lighting.
- § The hotel provides subsidized bus passes to all employees to encourage use of mass transit. Employees pay only \$100 (which is 20 percent of cost) for six months worth of bus transit between Rifle and Aspen.
- § A sophisticated ozone generation system, an effective germicide, enables ninety percent of laundry loads to be washed in cold water. Banquet linen, which accounts for 10 percent, is washed in warm water.
- § A product called HeatSavr is used in the outdoor pool to reduce heat loss to evaporation (acts like a thermal blanket).
- § Many of the major motors in the hotel's central plant have variable frequency drives (VFDs), which run the motor speed by set parameters, instead of running at full speed all the time.
- § The hotel's cooling plant has recently been upgraded to make maximum use of the cool air from outside to cool the building, using chillers only when it is too warm outside to cool the building through natural means.
- § A sophisticated building automation system (BAS) maximizes building equipment efficiencies, schedules heating and cooling (HVAC), turns lighting on and off, and activates snowmelt systems.
- § An energy-saving hood system called Intellihood, which was installed in May 2008, uses hood fans based upon VFD parameters that run at a lower voltage unless they sense smoke and heat.

- § Windows on the lobby level and bridge have been tinted with a high quality solar film to screen out ultraviolet light and reduce cooling loads.
- § Computers and monitors are set to turn to low energy settings after just a few minutes of inactivity.
- § Motion detectors, which automatically turn off lights when there is no activity, have been installed in approximately 60 percent of the back-of-house (BOH). An ongoing program is in place to install monitors in the remaining BOH areas.

### **Water Conservation**

- § High efficiency toilets that use only 1.28 gallons of water per flush (the most water conscious available) were recently installed in all guest rooms. The standard for low flush toilets is 1.6 gallons. These new toilets save more water and, remarkably, work better than the 3.5 gallon-per-flush models they replaced.
- § A new program is in place to provide guests with the option to decide whether they'd like their linens changed.

### **Recycling/Reducing**

- § The hotel recycles glass, paper, plastic, aluminum, printer cartridges, electronic waste, batteries and cardboard.
- § The hotel uses 100% post consumer "Aspen" brand office paper from Boise Cascade.
- § Double-sided printing is used wherever possible. Daily reports such as the Next Day Arrival Report are always printed in this manner.
- § The hotel practices a "paperless" front office as much as possible, having converted many processes, including guest profiles, preferences and folios, to an electronic format.
- § Used grease from our kitchen is remanufactured into bio-diesel through an arrangement with a local company.
- § Pallets are saved and stored for pick-up and reuse.
- § Re-useable, washable cups are now used in the staff dining room, reducing the waste from the disposable cups previously used.

### **Cleaning Products/Practices**

- § The hotel uses an eco-friendly carpet cleaning service, Dwell Carpet, that uses non toxic cleaning solutions that contain no hazardous components as defined under the criteria of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These chemicals are the greenest in the industry. Dwell Carpet also builds its own efficient cleaning machines that use less water than conventional cleaning machines.
- § The hotel uses an eco-catalyst that is not harmful to the environment to keep drains clear.
- § Zero Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paints are used throughout the hotel. These paints contain none of the potent chemical odors typically associated with fresh paints.
- § The housekeeping department uses Eco-Lab window cleaner and air freshener to clean all guest rooms.

### **Memberships/Accreditations**

- § Aspen ZGreen business
- § Member of Green Hotels of America
- § Member of the Colorado Association for Recycling