

ST REGIS

ASPEN

For Immediate Release:

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The St. Regis Aspen Resort Embarks on Important Solar Project
Solar E-tubes will reduce hotel's natural gas usage by up to 50 percent

ASPEN, Colo. –The St. Regis Aspen Resort is making major strides in decreasing its carbon footprint with the onset of a solar project that will decrease the hotel's natural gas usage by as much as 50 percent. The hotel, along with the contractor Altech Solar, began installing Solar E-Tubes in December 2008. Thirty-seven, 30-tube arrays will be installed on the hotel's roof. The tubes will not be visible from the ground.

Using the sun's energy, the solar e-tubes – also known as heat pipes – are capable of heating water in the vacuum tube arrays to temperatures above 400 degrees. The tubes resemble copper torpedoes with a glass front on the side facing the sun. The heated water will then be transferred to the top of the tubes, where it will be pumped to storage and dispersion tanks. This system will tie in to the resort's main boiler loop where it will provide heat for domestic water for sinks and showers, building heat, hydronic snowmelt systems, Remède spa and the heated pool and whirlpools.

A sophisticated digital system regulates pumps, valves and water quantity to maintain the desired range of water temperature. Storage tanks will release the super-heated water into the boiler loop until the temperatures in those tanks drop below a set minimum temperature, for example, after the sun goes down or dense cloud cover takes over. At that point, the system reverts to heating the building's water with natural gas, until the cycle commences the next day. Shades will be installed to keep snow off of the tubes themselves. They will sense temperature and humidity and will cover the tube arrays when snow is imminent. The shades can also be deployed to prevent any possible overheating.

"The St Regis Aspen and our parent company, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, are making a large capital investment in this project as part of our green initiatives," says St. Regis Aspen Resort General Manager Senih Geray. "We are committed to significantly reducing the energy used by the hotel, because we believe in working toward a more sustainable and ecologically sound future."

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Occupying one of the world's best addresses at the base of Aspen Mountain, the St. Regis Aspen Resort provides the quintessential mountain resort experience. With fine accommodations, anticipatory service symbolized by signature St. Regis butlers, superb amenities, the indulgent Remède Spa, and 20,000 square feet of function space, guests receive an unmatched experience in a town famous for bliss.

With a range of accommodations offering town and mountain views, the St. Regis Aspen Resort is well-suited as a romantic getaway, a family resort or a distinctive venue for successful meetings and events. St. Regis Aspen features 179 guestrooms and suites. The east wing of the resort features the exquisitely appointed St. Regis Residence Club, Aspen comprised of 25 spacious two- and three-bedroom fractional residences and a private members' lounge. The fractional residences may be rented when available. For information or reservations, call 970-920-3300.

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