



## Simple Ways To Green Operational Activities

### *Pollution Prevention in the Hospitality Industry*

**A**re you looking for ways to green your day-to-day operations? Want to improve the environment and your bottom line? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2's Pollution Prevention (P2) in the Hospitality Industry website ([www.epa.gov/region02/p2/hospitality/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region02/p2/hospitality/index.html)) can help. The website offers tips and resources you can use in your operations to reduce your facility's environmental footprint.

*This is part of a series of fact sheets to help you prevent pollution throughout your hospitality facility. Read the entire series for additional resources.*

#### **Energy**

- Close exterior doors and clean or replace air filters regularly in order for the air conditioning/heat to function properly and efficiently.
- Remove bulbs from vending machines. They are unnecessary and waste energy daily.
- Use LED or fluorescent bulbs in exit signs. These signs are on 24 hours a day, so they present a great opportunity for saving energy and money.
- Seal cracks by adding weather stripping around doors and windows. Caulk cracks around windows, doors, and wall or window HVAC units to prevent outside air from entering your facility.
- Follow regularly scheduled heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system maintenance to ensure that they are all functioning properly and efficiently.
- Set hot water heater temperature and water storage tanks to 140°F or lower. The higher the water temperature, the more energy is required to heat the water.
- Install energy management systems that allow you to regulate individual room temperature from a central location. Frequently changing the temperature in individual rooms requires more energy than maintaining a steady temperature throughout the facility.

- Green Teams
- Facilitywide
- Offices
- Guest Rooms
- Restrooms
- Housekeeping
- Operations
- Restaurant – Front
- Restaurant – Back
- Meeting Rooms
- Grounds



- Insulate hot water pipes and storage tanks to prevent heat loss.
- Purchase energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning systems, including room units. Evaluate equipment size to ensure it is the proper size to meet your needs to avoid using excess energy.
- Produce renewable energy to reduce energy costs and possibly even contribute to your local energy grid.

### Water

- Check all water-using products regularly for leaks and flow rates to ensure that unnecessary water is not being used.
- Purchase air-cooled products and systems to save water and energy.

### Indoor Air Quality

- Keep trash and designated smoking areas away from air intake. Fumes from trash and smoke from smoking areas can flow into the vents and create unhealthy air quality.
- Control mold by maintaining proper moisture and relative humidity.
- Replace equipment that uses chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants. CFCs damage the ozone layer and allow ultraviolet light to penetrate, causing human health effects.

In the “Going Green” section of the website, find more tips and resources. Start at the top of each list for easier—and less expensive—ideas, and scroll down for more advanced P2 opportunities. Learn how to implement these strategies in your operations by visiting the “Resources” section of the website.

### Related EPA Resources

#### ENERGY STAR®

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

#### WasteWise

[www.epa.gov/wastewise](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise)

#### WaterSense®

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

#### Indoor Air: The Lodging Sector

[www.epa.gov/air/community/details/i-lodging.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/community/details/i-lodging.html)

#### EPA Region 2 Pollution Prevention

[www.epa.gov/region2/p2](http://www.epa.gov/region2/p2)

#### EPA Partnership Programs

[www.epa.gov/partners](http://www.epa.gov/partners)