



EarthCare Products & Practices

EarthCare includes more than 100 environmental practices and products that are in place at all Kimpton hotels and restaurants across the country. Many of the below practices were born with the company in 1981, while others have become part of EarthCare over its 30-year history.

COMPANY-WIDE HOTEL STANDARDS

Paper

- Use post-consumer recycled paper (35 percent PCR or greater) for office copies and bills
- Eliminated phone books from all guest rooms and implemented "by request" policy
- Eliminated religious books from all guest rooms and implemented "by request" policy
- Eliminated mandatory check out envelopes and implemented "by request" policy
- Eliminated mandatory express check out folios and implemented "by request" policy
- Use eco-friendly material (30 percent post-consumer recycled plastic) for hotel key cards
- Use recycled rubber for new fitness center floors
- Replaced posting slips for front desk adjustments with stamps

Water

- Introduced water-efficient shower heads (2.5 gpm or less)
- Introduced water-efficient toilets (1.6 gpf or less)
- Audit above water efficient products to ensure apparatus and products remain in place and functioning

Energy

- Established check-in policy of only one light and radio on in guest rooms
- Introduced CFL lighting in all guest rooms (not available in hotels using dimmable/3-way bulbs)

Waste Management

- Introduced in-room recycling bins company-wide (first hotel group to do so)
- Recycle wine hour corks
- Recycle in-room electronics including televisions, DVDs and radios
- Donate partially-used shampoos and conditioners to local charities
- Donate used linens and towels to local charities and / or businesses
- Provide washable / reusable mugs during morning coffee service
- Provide washable / reusable cups for fitness centers
- Encourage guest towel reuse through in-room signage
- Encourage guest linen reuse through in-room signage
- Use eco-friendly hair dryer bags, where hair dryer bags are in use
- Source U.S. bottled water for honor bars
- Introduced recycling bins in business centers, meeting rooms and fitness centers
- Replaced toilet paper wraps with stickers (such as Palomar "P") or twine wrap
- Use c-fold towels made with recycled content for public and employee restrooms (40 percent PCR)
- Use toilet tissue made with recycled content (20 percent PCR)
- Use facial tissue made with recycled content (10 percent PCR)

- Use certified towels and linens through Oeko-Tex 100 Standard
- Introduced paper recycling trays at administrative desks
- Introduced paper recycling trays at front desk
- Made video conferencing/web conferencing services available for guests and employees
- Offer reusable bags for employee dry cleaning
- Implemented “by request” policy for newspapers
- Reduced the size of guest room key packets
- Introduced “Raid the Mini Bar” program that reduces waste / unwanted amenities
- Offer only eco-friendly “to-go” cups during morning coffee service
- Eliminated junk mail from former employees through Ecologic Mail

Toxins

- Use guest room soaps made from natural ingredients and created by environmentally responsible companies
- Use guest room shampoos made from natural ingredients and created by environmentally responsible companies
- Use guest room conditioners made from natural ingredients and created by environmentally responsible companies

Organic Products

- Serve eco-friendly or socially conscious wine during nightly hosted wine hour
- Serve organic coffee in guest rooms (where in-room coffee is available)
- Serve organic and/or fair trade coffee in hotel lobby
- Offer organic options in honor bars (first hotel company to do so company-wide)

COMPANY-WIDE RESTAURANT STANDARDS

- Use unbleached to-go boxes or ones made with post-consumer recycled content
- Support and in compliance with Monterey Bay Aquarium’s seafood “Watch” program
- Use unbleached to-go napkins or ones made with post-consumer recycled content
- Use low-flow dish spray valves (1.6 gpm)
- Installed faucet aerators in kitchen line hand sinks
- Set dishwashers to low-flow or water-efficient settings
- Offer at least 30 percent eco-friendly wine selections (including organic, biodynamic and sustainable wines from small and large producers)
- Print menus on paper with post-consumer recycled content (35 percent PCR or higher)
- Offer beverage napkins made with post consumer recycled content (35 percent PCR or higher)
- Use leftover food for employee meals or donate to local shelters and food banks
- Eliminated individually packaged condiments and replaced with large containers (ketchup, mustard, cream cheese, butter and preserves)

COMPANY-WIDE HOTEL & RESTAURANT EARTHCARE STANDARDS

Paper

- Print corporate collateral using soy-based inks
- Print corporate collateral using post-consumer recycled paper
- Centralized printers set to double-sided default printing, where duplex printing is available

Water

- Introduced water-efficient faucet aerators (2.5 gpm or less)

Energy

- Established Kimpton "Green" building guidelines
- Introduced energy-efficient T8 and / or T12 fluorescent lighting in back-of-the-house areas
- Introduced motion sensors in low occupancy storage areas
- Changed exit sign lights to LED
- Introduced 100 percent energy-efficient lighting, CFLs and / or LEDs, in hallways (where dimmable lights are not in use)
- Introduced energy-efficient HVAC equipment

Waste Management

- Conduct staff recycling training
- Recycle cardboard
- Recycle glass
- Recycle paper
- Recycle aluminum cans
- Recycle plastic
- Recycle batteries
- Recycle cell phones
- Recycle ink and toner cartridges
- Recycle computers and peripherals
- Dispose / recycle CFL's and fluorescent lighting
- Provide washable/reusable mugs and glasses in back-of-the-house break rooms
- Eliminated use of Styrofoam cups and products in break rooms
- Recycle uniform and dry cleaning coat hangers back to dry cleaning company
- Placed recycle bins in employee break rooms
- Purchase products in bulk, when possible, and avoid single use products

Toxins

- Use unbleached break room napkins or ones made with recycled content
- Use environmentally safe deodorizers for cleaning
- Use environmentally safe disinfectants for cleaning
- Use environmentally safe spot cleaners for carpets
- Use environmentally safe and low VOC carpet cleaners
- Use environmentally safe glass cleaners for cleaning
- Use environmentally safe all-purpose cleaners for cleaning
- Use environmentally preferred dry cleaning vendors, where available
- Use only low or no VOC paints
- Implemented policy of ensuring that chlorinated chemicals are only used when no less toxic alternative is available, and then chlorinated chemicals are used only in minimal amounts
- Use automatic dishwasher detergents that are biodegradable and do not contain chlorine
- Use only non-phosphate, non-toxic, biodegradable, concentrated liquid or powder laundry detergents

Other Actions

- Eliminated paper expense reports and implemented online policy
- Implemented environmentally friendly purchasing policy
- Solicit and give preference to environmentally responsible service providers
- Maintain substantive, meaningful goals for energy reduction through property enrollment in the Energy Star Program
- Maintain substantive list of environmentally preferable services for guests at the concierge / front office

- Pursue independent property certifications for sustainability efforts

COMPANY-WIDE GREEN MEETING STANDARDS

- Source U.S. bottled water
- Serve water in pitchers with reusable glassware
- Use sales collateral, meeting notepads and coasters made from 100 percent recycled paper
- Use cloth or recycled paper napkins
- Implemented paperless services including electronic distribution of sales proposals, catering menus and banquet event orders
- Implemented internal paperless standards including email agendas prior to staff meetings
- Include a paper recycling bin at every event
- Offer at least four organic tea options at all coffee stations
- Eliminated plastic / wood stirrers and replaced with reusable spoons
- Eliminated use of Styrofoam or disposable cups and replaced with reusable cups and mugs
- Eliminated individually packaged condiments and replaced with large containers
- Eliminated plastic silverware in boxed lunches and replaced with recycled plastic ware
- Package to-go lunches in recycled paper bags or bio-pak boxes

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