

## AH&LA Highlights Hospitality's Green Best Practices

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### Online Tool Created to Offer Industry Cost-effective Ideas for Eco-friendly Operations

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) has compiled a Green Best Practices list for hoteliers taking steps to cost-effectively 'green' their own operations. Available on AH&LA's Website, the section features a growing list of actionable strategies, case studies, and timely 'green' news from AH&LA members leading the way to a more eco-friendly hospitality community.

Several notable Green Best Practices include:

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, running eco-friendly and responsible kitchens worldwide,

Colorado's Devil's Thumb Ranch, the only U.S. property to be recognized for its commitment to sustainability in a recent survey by Travel + Leisure magazine,

MGM Mirage in Las Vegas, recycling 80 percent of construction waste and building a monorail to the neighboring Bellagio Hotel.

'With so many of our members making such significant efforts to conserve our natural resources, we hope to inspire others in the hospitality industry to implement their own effective eco-friendly policies,' said AH&LA President/CEO Joseph A. McInerney, CHA. 'We encourage our members to educate themselves on the strides their industry colleagues are making to generate ideas for their own businesses. As we do more and more research, we're thrilled at how eco-conscious the lodging community already is, and extremely optimistic as we define and launch sustainability initiatives industry-wide.'

With a newly-established Green Task Force currently developing a comprehensive sustainability initiative for both existing properties and new construction projects, the greening of the industry is one of AH&LA's top priorities in 2008. The Green Task Force is working with the U.S. Green Building Council on a new, hotel-centric, LEED building certification, expected to be completed by the end of this year.

AH&LA is also reviewing criteria from more than a dozen existing programs already in effect around the nation, including Green Seal, Green Globe, Green Key, and various state certification programs, components of which will be the basis for the multi-tier green lodging certification program. Rounding out the initiative, AH&LA is also working with the meeting planner community to jointly create eco-savvy guidelines for the industry.

More detailed information is expected to be announced within the next few weeks. For more information on AH&LA and its green initiatives, please visit [www.ahla.com](http://www.ahla.com), or contact Jessica Soklow, manager of media relations, at (202) 289-3153 or [jsoklow@ahla.com](mailto:jsoklow@ahla.com).

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