



The Hilton Hotel

Solid Waste Services started the WasteSMART program to recognize local businesses that reduce and recycle waste and buy recycled products...

The Story

The Hilton Austin Hotel's connection to Austin goes beyond its downtown location adjacent to the Convention Center and the famous Sixth Street entertainment district. The hotel embraces Austin's longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship. Guests may not know it, but they are staying in a hotel that has gone above and beyond in reducing and recycling waste and buying recycled products.

How They Do It

The Hilton has made a shift in thought from disposal to recycling and reuse. The Hotel has eliminated disposable cups and containers from the employee cafeteria; donated or sold 800 televisions in lieu of disposing them; refurbished more than 30 outdated computers to sell to employees and used broken pool furniture to build shelves, molding and trim for other areas of the hotel. Hotel management is also looking for a company to recycle discarded carpet.

The Hilton currently recycles these materials:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Glass
- Plastic
- Cooking oil

The Hilton also works with their vendors to reduce

packaging and buy items in bulk where ever possible. They have also switched to distributing documents electronically to reduce paper waste.

Even though the Hilton Hotels Corporation does not currently mandate a "green" purchasing policy, the local Hilton has adopted a written purchasing policy for recycled-content products. Currently, The Austin Hilton buys recycled products such as:

- coffee cups
- coffee cup sleeves
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- fitness center flooring

Above and Beyond

The Hilton Hotels Corporation has recently appointed a Vice President of Sustainability. This new initiative covering all Hilton owned and managed hotels seeks to reduce the company's carbon dioxide emissions by 20%, energy consumption by 20%, and solid waste by 20% and water consumption by 10% by 2014. Materials explaining the initiative are in development.

The Hilton's efforts are yielding impressive results. Paper and cardboard recycling

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for instance, has yielded almost 40 tons of recycled product to date, reducing the number of solid waste pickups by 1.5 per month.

Going Green is a Valuable Amenity for Hotels

Beside the obvious cost savings from reducing solid waste pickups, the Hilton has seen benefits from clients who are more willing to book or rebook with a facility which embraces “green practices.” An additional benefit is the lift in morale as team members see their concern for environmental issues being addressed by hotel management. So next time you check in to the Hilton, check out their commitment to reducing and recycling.