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**Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina  
Awarded Certification at the Gold Level for the Green Seal  
Environmental Standard for Lodging Properties**

*San Diego convention hotel becomes largest hotel to be certified at the most distinguished  
GOLD level for environmentally sustainable lodging properties*

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SAN DIEGO (October 2010) – The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina (Sheraton) announced today that it has been certified by Green Seal. The most sustainable convention hotel in San Diego is now the largest hotel to be certified at the Gold level. The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina is owned by Host Hotels & Resorts® (Host) and managed by Starwood Hotels & Resorts (Starwood.)

In order to receive the certification, the hotel had to undergo an inspection and meet a checklist of criteria which included environmental compliance, waste minimization and recycling, bulk and environmentally preferable product purchasing, use of energy efficient equipment and supplies, and water conservation measures.

“This is a milestone achievement for us, and we are proud of our commitment to sustainability,” says Keri Robinson, General Manager of the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. “San Diego is a top destination for business, leisure and convention travelers. Guests and meeting planners are looking for, and appreciate our true commitment to providing a green experience.”

Certification by independent, third party organizations like Green Seal lends credibility and commitment to the Sheraton’s growing number of green



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practices. In addition to the Green Seal Gold certification, the hotel received the highest level of recognition, Two Palm Tree Leadership, from California Green Lodging in October 2009.

The hotel has been a leader in the green building race for many years. It was the first hotel in North America to be powered by electricity generated on-site from Fuel Cell Power Technology. This “ultra-clean” source of electricity requires no combustion reaction and the byproduct waste heat is recaptured to heat swimming pools and hot water.

Through corporate initiatives at Host and Starwood, there has been a strong two-pronged approach to sustainability. Host, a proponent of sustainable technologies and operational practices, has contributed capital funding, understanding the inherent economic and social returns on its green building investments. Starwood has focused on green operational standards and processes. The partnership has led to a successful green building foundation.

Host has provided capital funding and guidance necessary to complete several green building projects including the following highlights:

1. Low flow toilets, faucets and showerheads in all guestrooms with the EPA WaterSense label
2. Low VOC paints, primers, basecoats and sealants on exterior and interior of building
3. Installed electronic thermostats with motion sensors and door interlocks to reduce HVAC consumption when guests leave the room or leave the balcony door open
4. New roofing installed with a high solar reflective index which reflects heat from the sun to lower the energy loads required to cool the building
5. Retrocommissioning efforts which aided in a proactive approach to green building maintenance and linked into the hotel’s Building Automation System (BAS)
6. Purchasing ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and electronics, and energy-efficient kitchen and refrigeration equipment
7. Modernized all thirteen (13) traction elevators utilizing variable voltage, variable frequency drive technology with verified energy savings of 15%

Similarly, from an operational perspective, Starwood has provided guidance on several green initiatives including the following highlights:



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1. Instituting a culture of environmentally preferable purchasing with all office paper being made of 30% post consumer waste (PCW), toilet paper of 20% PCW, facial tissue of 10% PCW, bathroom amenity bottles of 100% PCW, and guest room keycards of 43% PCW, to name a few examples.
2. Implementing a comprehensive Sustainable Meetings Program that includes sustainable menu options, paperless pre-planning and on-line billing, linenless conference tables, paper meeting and single-use F&B products all made of 30% PCW, and an on-site FedEx Office which used 100% FSC paper and reduces carbon emissions associated with shipping materials to the hotel as they are printed on-site
3. Implementing hotel-wide recycling programs. This goes above and beyond having a recycling bin in each guest room by also locating them throughout meeting and public spaces. Additionally, the Sheraton recycles used bathroom bottled amenities and soap through donation to a non-profit organization and composts landscaping and kitchen food waste. The used kitchen fryer oil is donated to a company that converts it into biodiesel fuel.

### **Green Seal Certification**

According to Green Seal, the average hotel purchases more products in one week than 100 families will purchase in one year. A hotel is a microcosm of the built environment, in which purchasing decisions impact energy use, water use and emissions created. The lodging industry has an impact in most major environmental areas.

Green Seal's Environmental Standard for Lodging Properties (GS-33) has been instrumental in greening the lodging industry and creating a positive ROI for hotels that have implemented the recommended changes.

Green Seal's evaluations are based on state-of-the-art science and information using internationally recognized methods and procedures. To earn the coveted Green Seal a hotel must meet the Green Seal environmental standard for the category as demonstrated by rigorous evaluation, and an on-site visit.

### **About the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina**

The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina offers 1,053 guest rooms and suites, 120,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and event space, and features five restaurants and lounges, three outdoor swimming pools, and the Link@Sheraton. It is located at 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.



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For more information, call 619-291-2900 or visit [www.sheratonsandiegohotel.com](http://www.sheratonsandiegohotel.com).

### **About Host Hotels & Resorts®**

Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc., an S&P 500 and Fortune 500 company, is the largest lodging real estate investment trust and one of the largest owners of luxury and upper upscale hotels. The Company owns 104 properties in the United States and 9 international properties totaling approximately 62,000 rooms, and also holds a non-controlling interest in a joint venture that owns 11 hotels in Europe with approximately 3,500 rooms. Guided by a disciplined approach to capital allocation and aggressive asset management, the Company partners with premium brands in the operation of properties in over 50 major markets worldwide. For additional information, please visit the Company's website at [www.hosthotels.com](http://www.hosthotels.com). Host Hotels & Resorts® is a registered trademark of Host Hotels & Resorts, L.P. and is used herein with Host's permission.

### **About Green Seal**

Green Seal was established in 1989 as an independent non-profit organization. As a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party ecolable, Green Seal uses science-based standards and the power of the marketplace to create a more sustainable world. Green Seal is dedicated to safeguarding the health of people and environment by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. For more information visit [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org).

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