

## **Hotel Valencia Riverwalk is Turning a New Shade of Green**

### ***Hotel Valencia Riverwalk's commitment:***

Hotel Valencia Riverwalk is committed to doing its part to help make San Antonio a greener and more sustainable city, working to ensure that new environmental and technological advances are being put into practice throughout the property.

### ***Current Green Initiatives at Hotel Valencia Riverwalk:***

#### **Energy and Resource Management:**

- Motion detection systems installed in storage rooms, allowing for energy conservation when rooms are not in-use.
- Low flow, water efficient toilet bowls installed throughout the property to reduce water usage when the toilet is flushed.
- No VOC paints allowed (Volatile Organic Compounds).
- Aerators installed in all guest room sinks with the expectation of reducing water use by 50%.
- Dishwasher spray nozzle retro-fitted with a low-flow sprayer and a manual on lever to reduce water consumption.
- Energy efficient light bulbs installed wherever possible throughout the property
- The lighting system timed with the time of day in all public areas, including outside, to reduce electricity usage
- Biodegradable keys through our key card vendor

#### **Food and Beverage/Community:**

- Organic wine available
- All chicken purchased through an all-natural farm in nearby Gonzales, Texas
- Shrimp and crawfish all brought in locally from the Gulf of Mexico
- All lettuces from local sustainable farmers
- Wild fish purchased from local, sustainable fishermen
- Used bottles of hair and body products donated to local charities
- Half of bus pass expense for associates paid for by hotel, cutting down on the number of vehicles on the road
- Natura ® water is offered to our guests throughout the hotel and in the restaurant. Still or sparkling water is dispensed into glass bottles designed for wash and reuse, and presented to guests with sealed caps.

#### **Waste Minimization:**

- Water on request policy in restaurant, not automatically poured
- Restaurant and banquet water glasses made from 100% post consumer recycled glass
- Banquet note pads made from 100% post consumer recycled paper
- Restaurant to go boxes made from 100% compostable, biodegradable corn and soy paper
- Restaurant to go bags made from 25% post consumer recycled plastic, 100% recyclable
- Banquet tablecloths require only coldwater wash and no dry, reducing energy consumption and excessive cleaning
- Water restrictors on all kitchen faucets
- Specialty programmed commercial washers in laundry to control water and chemical usage.
- Only cloth napkins used.
- Majority of drinks served in the restaurant and bar are fountain drinks, thereby reducing the usage of aluminum and bottles
- In associate break room, only reusable cups and dishes available; no disposable utensils or dishes.

- Bath products are all natural with no artificial ingredients and packaging is made from 20% post-consumer recycled paper and printed with soy-based ink

***What the City of San Antonio is doing:***

San Antonio has launched several initiatives in an effort to become a cleaner, more energy efficient city, and area businesses are joining in to help support that mission.

CPS Energy has introduced several programs for cleaner energy including their program for affordable, clean energy (PACE). The utility company has also incorporated rain water collection systems on its building and introduced the Windtricity® program to the market.

The City of San Antonio itself has been making great strides in trying to create a “greener” city. The city adopted revisions to the economic Development Incentive Scorecard which provides incentives to developers to build in accordance to USGBC LEED Standard. In 2007, the city approved a green building restoration program for all future city buildings.

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) has reduced its water consumption by more than 32% over the past 16 years through a number of proactive programs, including the introduction of low-flow toilets to the market.

VIA Metropolitan Transit has long been a steward of environmental protection and conservation; It have greatly reduced emissions on all transit vehicles and has expanded services to create greater opportunities for individuals to leave their vehicles at home and use public transportation.

By incorporating all of these factors into its ever-growing city, San Antonio hopes to continue to raise the bar and encourage other cities to become more efficient and more environmentally conscious.