



Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside's Environmental Initiatives Earn Eco-Friendly 4 Green Key Rating from the Hotel Association of Canada

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

The Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside has taken the three Rs, and added a fourth: Reward.

The hotel has not only taken award-winning environmental strides with its sustainability initiatives, it has rewarded itself with significantly lower operating costs and the peace-of-mind and increased market share that results from becoming an eco-efficient hotel.

The Vancouver hotel has received a **4 Green Key™ Rating** from the **Hotel Association of Canada**. The Hotel Association of Canada's (HAC) Green Key Eco-Rating Program is a graduated rating system designed to recognize hotels, motels, and resorts that are committed to improving their fiscal and environmental performance.

Based on the results of a comprehensive environmental audit, hoteliers are awarded a 1-5 Green Key rating and given guidance on how to "unlock" opportunities to reduce operating costs and environmental impacts through reduced utility consumption, employee training, and supply chain management.

The HAC Green Key Eco-Rating Program is unique in that it is administered entirely on-line. The audit consists of 5 sections: Corporate Environmental Management, Housekeeping, Food & Beverage Operations, Conference & Meeting Facilities and Engineering.

"The 4 Green Key™ Rating denotes a hotel that has shown national industry leadership and commitment to protecting the environment through wide ranging policies and practices. Hotel has mature programs in place that involve management, employees, guests, and the public, and which have shown substantial and measurable results".

The Vancouver hotel's environmental initiatives began in 1998 with a group of concerned employees who formed the Renaissance Environmental Committee. They originally aimed to implement a more effective recycling program but ended up redefining their goals to include all aspects of operating a sustainable business. Currently, the hotel has environmental programs for: waste reduction and recycling; energy reduction and efficiency; water conservation; sustainable purchasing; and air quality.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

The hotel's waste reduction and recycling program is the foundation of a full-spectrum sustainability operation, and includes the recycling of cardboard, paper, aluminum, glass, plastic, toner cartridges, and refundable beverage containers. Also, the hotel provides recycling bins in all guest rooms, reuses Styrofoam packaging material for guests and staff, composts all food waste, and donates used items such as furniture, discarded linens and soap amenities to charity.

The implementation of the recycling program has reduced the amount of solid waste disposed to landfills by 50 percent.

Energy Reduction and Efficiency

The efficient use of electricity and lighting, heating and ventilation, and office equipment speaks volumes to sustainable operations. The downtown Vancouver hotel replaced all incandescent light bulbs throughout the property. Exterior lights were changed to lower wattage fluorescent light and main service areas were equipped with occupancy sensors. 150 light fixtures in the parking areas were converted from T12 fluorescent lamps with magnetic ballasts to T8 lamps with electronic ballasts. Heating and ventilation controls add to the energy efficiency at the Renaissance with preventative maintenance schedules, auto controlled heating and cooling, natural light use in the lobby, and effective use of insulation. Additionally, office computers and bar and restaurant terminals are shut down at night, and management buys only energy-efficient office equipment.

The property engineers say the energy intensity coefficients for the property, based on electrical, steam and natural gas usage, are significantly lower than national industry averages.

YTD, 514,804 KWH have been saved. This is equal to 221.37 tonnes (metric) of CO₂ (Carbon Footprint).

Water Conservation

The property has also significantly reduced water consumption by installing low-flow showerheads, implementing a linen and towel reuse program and a leak detection and repair program. Moreover, dishwashers are run only when completely full, the water used in ice machines is re-circulated, and infrared sensors operate in the urinals of staff and public washrooms.

Sustainable Purchasing

The Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside's good housekeeping practices and appropriately eco-friendly equipment greatly increase sustainability and reduce pollution on the property. The hotel works closely with suppliers to ensure that every measure is taken regarding the purchasing of supplies. These programs include:

- Buying locally grown food and wine products – beneficial to the local economy and aiding in the reduction of transportation costs, in turn helping to improve air quality
- Purchasing non-hazardous cleaning products
- Using “just in time” purchasing practices to prevent unnecessary waste
- Using cloth napkins and tablecloths in restaurant
- Using recyclable/reusable packaging materials for food products

Air Quality

The staff promotes carpooling and the use of public transit for commuting to work, and encourages guests to use public transit and share taxis whenever practical. Other programs include:

- Using HEPA air filters
- Implementing no-idling policy for delivery trucks in loading bay
- Using water-based paints to the fullest extent possible, reducing volatile organic compound emissions
- Using automatic carbon monoxide detectors
- Installing separate ventilation for chemical storage, laundry and pool areas

Additionally, the property has moved beyond a basic awareness of environmental issues, and is now formally committed to environmental improvement and reducing the environmental impacts of its operations.

The hotel and its associates have earned peace-of-mind, lower energy costs and a measurable number of guests visiting the property as a reward for implementing environmental initiatives. The hotel received a "Green Idea Award" in 2000 from the British Columbia & Yukon Hotel Association for its recycling program. Also, the property was featured in *BC Business Magazine* in the article, "Winning the War on Waste," and **was nominated for, and won, the prestigious Hotel Engineering ECHO Award in 2004 and again in 2007.**

The hotel green initiatives have also received recognition from Audubon International.

About the Renaissance Vancouver

The Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside is a waterfront business hotel located in the heart of the city. Enjoy the scenic attractions of downtown and partial views of Coal Harbour and the beautiful North Shore mountains. The hotel is within walking distance of the Cruise Ship Terminal, the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, as well as shopping, historic Gastown, and the 1,000-acre Stanley Park. The downtown Vancouver business hotel also boasts 18,000-sq.ft of meeting and event space, a fully equipped fitness centre and excellent dining facilities.

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