

A partnership between:

- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Rhode Island Hospitality & Tourism Association
 - Modeled after Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Green Lodging and Green Restaurants Certification

The program uses Certification Workbooks with checklists for Hotels & Lodging and Restaurants, which include:

- Administrative
- Kitchen & Housekeeping Departments activities, including food and cleaning
 - Waste management, including recycling and universal waste
 - Landscaping & Maintenance Departments activities
 - ✓ Water conservation
 - Energy initiatives
 - Environmental Education
 - ✓ Other creative initiatives



- Completion of the checklist in an earlier draft version in the Hotel & Lodging Certification Workbook was carried out as a trial in June 2007
- The draft checklist in the Certification Workbook was completed by eight (8) hotels

- After beginning with the Hotel & Lodging Certification Workbook, RIDEM developed a Restaurants Certification Workbook with a checklist
- The Certification Workbook with the checklist for restaurants is similar to that being used for lodging facilities, but checklist items reflect a food service related focus

- The program was formally announced at the Annual Meeting of the Providence Warwick Visitors and Convention Bureau on November 1, 2007
 - Prior to the announcement, a draft Hotel & Lodging Certification Workbook was sent to twenty (20) of Rhode Island's largest hotels to complete as a trial
 - After initial responses were received, minor modifications were made to the documents before distribution to other lodging facilities takes place

- The release of the final Certification Workbooks is scheduled for early 2008
- Completed Certification Workbooks with the checklists will be submitted by facilities to RIDEM for scoring
- RIDEM hopes to approve the first certifications in April 2008.
- This will be followed by random audits of approved facilities by RIDEM staff

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