Sustainability at HI-Boston

Boston Green Tourism Meeting
Thursday, May 1, 2014
HI-Boston At a Glance

- 481 Bed Hostel
- 99 Rooms – 22 Privates
- Shared accommodations & resources
- Greenest Hostel in HI-USA Network
- Trip Advisor Green Leader – Gold Level and Mayor’s Greenovate Award
Around The Hostel

Did you know? Occupancy sensors and timers automatically turn lights off after 15 minutes.

do not forget to turn out the light... and if you do, do not worry, we will take care of it

Go Green @ Hostelling International Boston
HI-Boston Green Design

- Repurposed building materials
- Recycled Furniture
- Energy efficient machines/appliances
- Historic building
- Energy-saving elevators

Go Green @ Hostelling International Boston
Green Project: HVAC Motors

- **Problem/Motivation:** Noise & energy consumption
- **Solution:** Changing original motors for ECMs
- Reduces energy usage by half
- Noise resolved—down to acceptable level
Green Project: Worm Factory

- **Motivation:** Encourage Composting & reduce carbon footprint
- **Solution:** Purchased 3000 worms
- Composted worms and soil
- Still not enough worms to meet organic waste/compost needs

Go Green

@ Hostelling International Boston
Green Project: LEED Certification

- Hostel built to LEED Specifications
- April 2014: Submitted application for LEED Gold
- Process delayed:
  → Engineers wanted to confirm energy model
Other Green Projects

• Manual soap dispensers
• Recyclable Ink Cartridges
• Shifted to tablets and phones for daily operations management
• Housekeepers certified as Green Housekeepers according to LEED
• Use the most plant-based chemicals possible
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successes</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Installing ECM motors</td>
<td>• Delayed LEED Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Usage of green laundry chemicals</td>
<td>• Not enough scale in worm factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• General green materials</td>
<td>• Lack of direction/ownership for Green Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Earth Hour – Intl. Initiative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paperless SOP tracking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go Green @ Hostelling International Boston
Lessons Learned

• Value of structure and process
• Setting clearly defined goals for green programs
• Better incorporating sustainability into day-to-day operations
• Accountability of projects
New Year, New Initiatives

- Setting Annual Green Goals
- Changing out Fluorescents for LEDs
- Green Education programs for guests
- Scaling Compost system & preparing organic waste system
- Installing solar thermal panel on roof
- Planning stages for Live Wall
Thank You!

Andrew Laliberte  
Chief of Maintenance  
Andrew.Laliberte@hiusa.org

Paul Kuhne  
Community Engagement Manager  
Community.boston@hiusa.org