

## Why Choose a Green Lodging Facility?

### Protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

Green lodging reduces pollution and waste, results in greater energy-efficiency, protects Michigan's land, air, and water resources, and promotes a healthier and more productive environment for hotel guests and staff.

### Better indoor quality.

Energy-efficient buildings are easier to maintain, more comfortable for guests, and have better indoor air quality.

Green buildings use less toxic materials during construction and maintenance and have better ventilation. As a result, guests may have less respiratory, asthma, and allergy problems during a stay.

### What you can do . . .

Individuals interested in protecting our environment can make an impact by choosing a green lodging facility. If your favorite lodging facility isn't green, encourage them to become a GLM member and get listed at [www.michigan.gov/greenlodging](http://www.michigan.gov/greenlodging).

Under "Resources for Travelers" you can find a guest card you can leave wherever you stay to encourage green lodging.

### Have Fun While:

- **Supporting the Environment**
- **Supporting a Green and Healthy Michigan**

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Your trip begins at [michigan.org](http://michigan.org)



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# Greening Your Stay in Michigan



[www.michigan.gov/greenlodging](http://www.michigan.gov/greenlodging)

## What is Green Lodging?

“Green lodging” is a term used to characterize hotels, motels, resorts, and bed & breakfasts that are leaders in energy conservation, air quality, waste management, and reduced water consumption.

A growing number of guests are recognizing a facility’s commitment to the environment. Many guests, “eco-tourists,” are actually willing to pay a bit more to support an environmentally responsible business.

Green lodging facilities:

- lead economically, environmentally, and socially
- sustain the environment and rehabilitate damage done
- conserve resources throughout their operations
- are committed to continually improving environmental efforts
- set quantifiable goals of reducing energy use, water use, solid waste, and toxic and hazardous materials.



## What is Green Lodging Michigan?

Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) is a voluntary, non-regulatory certification program offered through the Michigan Energy Office and is available to hoteliers at no charge. GLM provides technical assistance and recognition to hospitality and lodging properties that show a commitment to “green” business practices and can demonstrate that environmental and economic goals are a top priority.

- communication and education
- air quality
- energy efficiency
- solid waste reduction
- toxic and hazardous waste
- water conservation
- purchasing



## How is Green Lodging Different?

At GLM certified hospitality facilities, visitors can expect to find a facility that is doing what it can to protect the environment. There are many things that a hotel or lodging facility can do to help protect the environment. Look for these options at your favorite hotel. If they are not available, request them.

### In the Guest Room . . .

- Offer the option of having towels and linens changed every other day to decrease the usage of water, energy, and harmful detergents.
- Install water-saving faucets, showerheads, toilets, and an effective irrigation system for surrounding landscape.
- Convert to compact fluorescent bulbs. Energy-efficient lighting fixtures can save up to 75 percent on energy usage and reduce labor.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs and appliances.
- Use refillable dispensers for soap and shampoo to reduce waste, and save time and money.
- Offer guests the opportunity to recycle bottles, cans, plastics, and paper to reduce solid waste.

### Hotel Operations . . .

- Replace lighting and equipment with energy-efficient alternatives.
- Reduce or eliminate the number or wattage of lamps in lighted signs and vending machines.
- Install Light Emitting Diode (LED) EXIT signs.
- Install water-efficient low-flow toilets and faucet aerators in public restrooms.
- Purchase office equipment, copiers, and computers that are ENERGY STAR-certified. Recycle fax machine and copier cartridges; make double-sided copies; make scratch pads from discarded paper.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR clothes washers, refrigerators, boilers, lights, and windows.
- Set up a routine maintenance schedule for heating and cooling systems.
- Weather proof windows and doors to prevent air loss.
- Use proper insulation and reflective roof coverings.
- Set hot water temperature at the lowest practical setting for clothes and dish washing.
- Buy non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning products to keep hazardous chemicals out of the water, air, and soil.
- Cover indoor and outdoor swimming pools while not in use to reduce pool heating costs, evaporation, chemicals usage, and cleaning time.

