



GPI... Helping sustain the environment through our actions.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2009 ?

GPI has been working diligently this past year to expand our Green practices and widen our Environmental efforts.

We realize that what we do today matters for tomorrow. Yes, you are correct; that is an understatement!

What may seem like a small step now, will pay large dividends in the future... Our future and the future of our children.

As we told you last summer, GPI is consulting with an Environmental Audit company, a leader in their field to determine our best course of action. We want to know exactly what steps we should be taking and what policies we should be implementing to help us reach our goals. Our goals are lofty, but with GPI's commitment and the

help of everyone of you, we will reach them. Inside this edition we will go into more detail about these efforts.

New Additions for 2009 include:

The 5 in 1 Washer. Our laundry facility has added a cutting edge Washer that will reduce water consumption by 200,000 gallons every summer. In doing so, we have also been able to reduce our energy consumption by taking several antiquated smaller washers out of commission.

The Recycling Dumpster at our East Glacier Warehouse. This will allow us for the first time, to collect aluminum, tin, paper, plastics 1 & 2 and cardboard from all of our hotels and store them in one central location for transport to a recycling facility.

The new Eco Sense Volunteer

Team - at every one of our Hotels. With our expanded recycling effort, we need the support of each of these valuable members. It's a big job that requires time, organization and much effort. If you want to help out... join our team. Talk to your location managers about helping out and they will get you started or see the Green Suggestion box on the back page to get connected.

We look forward to another successful season here in Glacier and moving another year forward with our Environmental Program. Thank you to each of you who are helping us. Remember, even the smallest effort on your part contributes to our future in a big way.

Best Buy
Did you know... Best Buy trades \$10 Gift Cards for old PC's

CARBON FOOTPRINT

What is commonly referred to as a Carbon Footprint is the effect we have on the environment. There are many definitions that all get at the same point. Here are a couple:

A **carbon footprint** is a "measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of

greenhouse gasses produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide."

The tangible impact someone's activities will have on the environment, measured in units of carbon dioxide produced.

To reduce a carbon footprint is beneficial to the environment, which is why there are calculators to measure and reduce these footprints.

Inside this issue we will give you an idea just how much impact we do have on the environment.

THE RECYCLING... DILLEMA ?

Recycling—So what is it, exactly? A broad definition is: The act of processing used materials to create new materials.

It makes all the headlines these days, but is it really all it's cracked up to be? Yes and no.

Recycling is a helpful secondary measure - it prevents the waste of potentially useful materials, reduces consumption of fresh raw materials and can reduce air pollution from incineration and reduce water pollution from landfills.

So why "No?". What is the downside. Simply put, it increases energy consumption and Carbon emissions; during transport to recycling plants and then again during the "recycling" process. So here-in lies the dilemma.

Green Seal Certification

Being Green Seal Certified means meeting a long list of specific environmental standards & guidelines set by the International Organization for Standardization, or IOS 14000.

Some of these certifications include but are not limited to: food service packaging, fleet vehicle maintenance & operations, alternatively fueled vehicles, energy efficient lighting, general purpose industrial cleaners, paints & coatings, paper towels, napkins and printer paper, etc...

GPI has already incorporated most of these standards and we are continuing to expand the products we use.

We look forward to becoming more "green" with each season.

You can view these standards for yourself at www.greenseal.org

Granted, in the long run it helps to recycle. Products made from recycled materials reduce carbon emissions, because they use less energy to manufacture. Yet still the mind wonders... what else can we do?

We can be Proactive! We can begin concentrating on reducing waste at it's source. We can begin reducing consumption. We can fight to increase energy efficiency standards, such as automobile fuel regulations. And certainly we can all push for more stringent regulations on factories that emit toxins into the air or that haven't yet bought into green technologies of today.

As a means to an end, let's point out some helpful measures to these pro active measures.

Sustainability—Practices that have as little impact on environ-

mental systems as possible while creating a means of prolonged if not indefinite use of resources and energies.

Renewable Energies— these are energies generated from natural resources such as wind, sunlight, rain, tides and geothermal heat. These are renewable through nature, which means they are self replenishing. For example: hydroelectricity.

Sure recycling helps, but let's find other ways to help this planet. It begins with education and awareness. Get informed on Sustainability. Check out sights such as ecoliteracy.org or just Google environmental sustainability and educate yourself.

It may not be too late to save the planet.

GREEN TIP

- 90% of energy used to wash clothes is to heat water!

CFL Light Bulbs

... Watt's that you said?

Doesn't it always come down to the bottom line? In this case the bottom line is:

- CO2 reduction
- Energy Reduction
- and of course saving a few \$\$\$ doesn't hurt.

On page 4, in the carbon calculator we break down the benefit of using the CFL Light bulb as opposed to it's dinosaur predecessor, the standard light bulb.

The differences are shocking!

Compostable/Biodegradable

Many of the products we now use are a combination of Biodegradable and Compostable materials. Our purchasing manager has spent countless hours researching food & beverage products, hotel amenities, paper products and packaging materials. These products are a reflection of our reducing waste at it's source policy.

No longer will we use plastic food containers, plastic plate ware or silverware, plastic lotion and soap bottles or non recycled paper and cardboard products.

This practice will reduce the need for disposal and/or recycling. We will now limit how much we contribute to landfills, garbage dumps and CO2 emission at recycling plants.

...just another GPI step toward Greening our environment.

GPI'S ECO SENSE INITIATIVES

So by now everyone's curiosity is peaked... inquiring minds want to know... and you are on the edge of your seat... I just know it.

We've already mentioned the newest additions for 2009, so let's talk a little about what we have done over the course of the previous couple of seasons. Keep in mind that we are a seasonal operation, so we don't have the ability to implement changes through an entire year... only one brief summer at a time. Yet even with these limits, we've still made impressive strides.

Let's begin with our Red Bus and Warehouse Fleet. 33 Red Buses and 5 Warehouse trucks are now equipped with a Bi-Fuel system operating on gasoline and propane, limiting our dependency on gasoline, reducing harmful emissions and most importantly our carbon footprint.

Our Hotel Lounges have now converted to a Keg Beverage System that eliminates thousands of

glass bottles. Consider that recycling just 20 glass bottles creates 3 lbs. of carbon emissions. So multiply that by the thousands we have eliminated.

All GPI restaurants now use only Biodegradable food containers and Spudware. Spudware... was formerly plastic ware. We have eliminated plastics and now use products made only from potato, corn and recycled products. Items such as: napkins, forks, knives and spoons, straws, carry out boxes, beverage cups, soufflé cups that hold your salad dressings or dipping sauces, etc. and our menu's now include organic local wines and products from local farmers. So take a better look next time you order something to go.



Our housekeeping departments now use Eco friendly cleaning products such as ... Green Seal Certified Betco Green Earth products like Glass Cleaner and Peroxide Cleaner and our Daily Disinfectant is quite green and on the verge of being Green Seal certified. As well as Bee Kind beauty products that use organic bee pollinated ingredients with a portion of proceeds helping to fund Bee research & recovery.

Our 758 Hotel rooms are now illuminated by CF light bulbs that reduce energy and carbon output by about 60%. The pillows on every bed are made from reclaimed and recycled plastic materials. The paper products in all the lavatories are made with recycled paper material. And most recently our Room Key Cards are now made of biodegradable material !

The list is long and continues to grow. Next year will no doubt bring new products, new ideas and hopefully many familiar faces.

THE GREEN GLOSSARY

Climate Change— Climate change is a general term used to explain significant changes from one climatic condition to another, such as temperature or precipitation levels of the Earth over time. In some cases, it has been used synonymously with the term "Global Warming." Scientists tend to use the term in the wider sense to also include natural changes in Climate. Climate Change is happening at different rates and in different ways but mostly due to the production of heat-trapping gasses like carbon dioxide from vehicles, factories and deforestation.

Global Warming - is a term used to describe an increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. It is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases.

Kyoto Protocol - An international agreement between 137 (and growing) developed countries to work toward reducing greenhouse gas and emissions that cause climate change. It was originally passed in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan and is set to expire in 2012; the United States has signed but not ratifies the

agreement, meaning it is non binding in the US.

Greenhouse Gas - Any gas that absorbs infra-red radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse Gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) and the reduction of their emissions also reduces our carbon footprint.

Greenhouse Effect - The warming trend on the surface and in the lower atmosphere of a planet, held by scientists to occur when solar radiation is trapped, by emissions of a planet.



We're on the web...
www.gpihr.com

Green Suggestion Box...

If you want to join our Eco Sense Volunteer Team, have a suggestion or even want to submit an interesting article, email Tony @ tdowdican@glacierparkinc.com or call me @ 406-226-5689

Carbon Calculator

THE CF LIGHT BULB

One 20 watt CF (compact fluorescent) bulb is equivalent to one standard 75 watt incandescent bulb. So let's just say we replace 10 bulbs in our household. That breaks down to a savings of...

- \$369 /year
 - 3614 kilowatt hours /year
 - 5709 lbs. CO₂ /year
- Or put another way, these same 10 CF Bulbs would translate into these comparable savings:
- 5622 miles by automobile
 - 294 gallons of gasoline
 - 6.0 barrels of oil
 - 108 large Propane BBQ tanks
 - .59 acres of rain forest /year
 - .89 tons of waste /year
 - Taking .47 vehicles off the road /year

Calculator courtesy of Paul Ollig—
NPS Research Education Coordinator

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING—WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION?

It's evident the world is in a warming period. This is directly related to both a natural cycle of the Earth warming, called Climate Change and increased human activities, which lead to Global Warming. It is a scientific fact that practices such as deforestation, vehicle emissions, factory production, power plants and many other sources of human activity do indeed consume energy and create harmful greenhouse gases that contribute to the warming of the Earth. We certainly play a big part in this evolving story.

The good news is that it's probably not too late to help. You hear about things such as reducing our carbon footprint, tracking our individual

effect through a carbon calculator and doing our part to reduce harmful heat trapping gases, etc. But until you really look into it, and understand what your individual connection is, it doesn't hit home. So take the time to find out.

Go to nature.org, national-geographic.com, the official EPA site, www.epa.gov or try www.climatechangeacts.info for a scientific debate, There are thousands of resources to explore. If you haven't looked into it yet, it's about time you start. Google is your best tool.

Here are some educational tips you can get online... .

20 to 25% of carbon emissions come from deforestation. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime, but when it's cut down, releases the carbon

One CF bulb saves 60% more energy than standard bulbs & reduces over 300 lbs of carbon per year

Purchase Energy Star appliances for best energy efficiency

Use a reusable shopping bag. Say No ! to plastic bags next time

Buy fresh—frozen products take 10 times more energy to produce. Support your local farmers !

Join the Stop Global Warming Virtual March—it's non political—let your voice be heard !