



THE *Fairmont*
EMPRESS

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program

In 1884, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts was founded on an enduring connection to the land and communities where we do business. In 1990, we proactively launched our industry-leading Green Partnership program, a comprehensive approach to reducing our impact on the environment. This commitment to minimizing our hotels' footprint on the planet is a key component of our operating philosophy, which is formalized in our Environmental Policy.

The Green Partnership allows Fairmont to meet and exceed guest expectations of operational sustainability and responsible tourism, because the environment isn't just something that's "out there"—it's where we live, work and play each day.

Fairmont's Green Partnership focuses on improvements in the areas of energy and water conservation, waste management, and innovative community outreach programs involving local groups and partnerships—please read below for this hotel's initiatives that operate under the Green Partnership program.

Leadership Through Innovative Programs

Eco-Meet: Fairmont's Eco-Meet program offers planners the opportunity to minimize the ecological footprint of meetings and events through the reduction of waste and conservation of valuable resources. The program can be tailored to the individual needs of the client through four key components—Eco-Accommodation, Eco-Cuisine, Eco-Service and Eco-Programming.

At The Fairmont Empress:

- We offer an Organic Conference option
- We are proud to showcase our "Go green, Stay green" package which includes;
 - One night accommodation
 - The most endangered species in Canada lives right here on Vancouver Island. With only 253 left in the world, we will donate \$25 from each stay towards the adoption of a Marmot, through the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Center, ensuring it's continued existence.
 - 3 Hour Eco-Whale Watching Tour through Sea Fun Safaris. This would include watching a variety of whales in their natural habitats and learning about our ecology in the Pacific Northwest Take in the wild life up-close and personal.
 - Local, organic wine amenity in room paired with local organic cheese plate.

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program

Carbon Management Program: Fairmont has introduced an Energy and Carbon Management Program in support of our Climate Change Strategy, that allows us to monitor, track, and report on our progress toward achieving significant CO2 reductions at all of our locations worldwide. We also partner with like-minded companies who provide products and services that improve our operational efficiencies. These proactive steps will reduce carbon output and help mitigate the effects of global warming.

Greening our Greens: All Fairmont-managed golf courses are enrolled with Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuaries, an organization which sets guidelines for an international system of wildlife and environmental conservation. Through our participation, we have developed an extensive integrated management plan for ongoing improvements to our golf courses called "Greening Our Greens". The program offers practical ways for our courses to make positive changes, while working toward the larger goal of achieving certification from Audubon International.

At The Fairmont Empress, grounds naturalization projects include:

- Using all-natural pesticides such as Safer Soap or Trounce and only spray as needed.
- Utilize rain water harvesting or gray water for our flower beds
- We include the use of our own compost throughout our gardens

Green Cuisine: Fairmont is committed to purchasing local, organic, Fair Trade and sustainable food products wherever possible, including utilizing organic or biodynamic wines, local purveyors and on-site herb gardens.

At The Fairmont Empress:

- Our chefs utilize our own rooftop herb garden for our dining room
- The Fairmont Empress is *Oceanwise* certified
- We support the use of local, seasonal and organic foods when possible. Our Empress Dining room Chef is a member of the Island Chef's Collaborative, an organization who partners chefs with farmers to support the sustainability of local farms. We currently use the following local suppliers;
 - Barnston Island Herbs (organic)
 - F.A.S. (Pacific Coast Seafood company)
 - Comox Valley Cheese
 - Saltspring Island Goat Cheese Company
 - Appleberry Jams
 - Goldstream Poultry (Organic poultry products)
 - Shady Creek Ice Cream (local)
 - Long rotation list of local farms are utilized for seasonal produce

Waste Management

Paper, packaging and garbage are a reality of our lives, and of any business. Fairmont has consistently cut these side effects of our operations. While effective waste management comes with challenges, such as operating in communities without recycling facilities, we continue to reduce and divert waste and identify other eco-friendly opportunities.

Initiatives at The Fairmont Empress include:

- Composting Program from kitchen waste (all organic matter) including from bins outside cafeteria.
- Paper Recycle Program (15 years)
- Cardboard Compactor Program (5 years)
- We have Recycling Blue Bins in all bedrooms and meeting rooms

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program

- Half-used amenities like shampoos and conditioners are given to local shelters and the soap is sent to be made into laundry detergent by local company – Buffalo Soaps.
- Lost & Found items like socks and other clothing items are given to local shelters
- Day old pastries are donated to The Open Door.
- Last year we provided all colleagues with a reusable plastic water bottle to reduce the use of paper cups and encourage all employees to stay hydrated. This year we gave all colleagues a reusable grocery bag to take home for personal use.
- We currently recycle all batteries and encourage employees to bring in batteries from home by providing a drop box for them.
- Wine bottles, broken glassware, glass containers and cans that do not have deposits on them are picked up by Metro Recycling.
- Copper, brass, stainless steel, aluminum and mixed metals are collected in our maintenance department and taken to Ellice Recycling.
- We collect clean plastic film for recycling. Bins are placed outside of linen room and employees are encouraged to bring in plastic film from home for recycling.
- Our seamstress has been sewing old shower curtains into dry cleaning bags and embroidering each with employees names to be reused and long lasting.
- Fryer fat and cooking grease is collected in receptacles and Island Processing picks up as needed.
- We recently installed a state of the art HCH20 grease interceptor unit that has replaced the grease traps in the hotel. Liquid waste from food prep and dishwashing areas passes through the interceptor. Suspended solids and grease are collected and dumped into the organic totes for pick up by Refuse. The clean water is discharged to the sewer.

Energy and Water Conservation

To conserve energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions, Fairmont has introduced compact fluorescent light bulbs where possible. Most hotels now have water-efficient showerheads and tap aerators, and we continue to replace all toilets that have a flush capacity over 2 gallons (7.6 liters). Guests can do their part by choosing to participate in the towel and sheet exchange program offered at all Fairmont properties.

At The Fairmont Empress, energy and water conservation projects include:

- The Fairmont Empress is an "Energy Star" with BC Hydro (including all bulbs in the hotel are compact florescent energy saving certified.)
- We have Motion Sensors in Function Spaces to save on electricity (After 10 minutes without motion in the room the lights will automatically turn off.)
- Regular maintenance and checks to ensure water use efficiency and identify any leaks immediately.
- Natural Gas Boilers (10 years)
- Towel Program (Guests can choose not to have their bath towels washed everyday by hanging them up on the back of the door.)
- Bed Linen Program (Guests can choose not to have their bed linens changed every other day by placing the "sheet exchange card" on their bed)
- The Fairmont Empress promotes and participates in the Bike to Work campaign each year. This year we encouraged our employees to bike to work over the summer, tracking all participants and offered incentive prizes for everyone who took part. Over 75 employees participated in our two week campaign and over 50 continued through the summer until September 30th averaging 13 Km a day.

Partnerships and Affiliations

Our affiliations highlight our commitment to the environment, and also help promote unique Fairmont eco-experiences. The growing number of partners and associations who share our vision include The World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, WWF (Climate Savers Program), The International Tourism Partnership, The

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (ENERGY STAR® program), The Hotel Association of Canada (Green Key Eco-Rating Program) and the National Geographic Society.

Local projects are tailored to address environmental issues specific to the hotel's location, and showcase each Fairmont's unique environmental strengths and connection to their community.

On a local level, The Fairmont Empress' partners include:

- Our Green Team meets once a month to discuss what we are currently doing, create new directives and continue to maintain environmental awareness and sustainability within the hotel. We have just recently adopted an endangered Vancouver Island Marmot and will have ongoing fundraisers throughout the year to adopt more, ensuring the survival of this species.
- Support the United Way's Annual Campaign, winning the Spirit Award for 2007.
- Volunteer campaign for the Mustard Seed local food bank and Christmas dinner.
- The Fairmont Empress sponsors several families each year for the Women in Need Transition house, providing gifts at Christmas for families in need.
- Support and host a brunch for the "Raise a Reader" campaign to promote literacy and provide school supplies to children in need.
- Collect coats for kids to donate to local shelter each year.

Awards & Accolades

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' Green Partnership Program continues to be recognized by a number of international organizations including the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), *Ad Age* and *Strategy* magazines.

The Fairmont Empress has received the following certifications/ratings:

- HAC Green Key Eco Rating 3 Green Keys
- Energy Star and Power Smart recognition through BC Hydro

The Fairmont Empress

721 Government Streets

Victoria, BC

Canada, V8W 1W5

TEL 250-384-8111

FAX 250-381-5959

E-MAIL theempress@fairmont.com

www.fairmont.com/empress

Explore Fairmont's responsible tourism activities or request our *Green Partnership Guide* book at www.fairmont.com