



**Sheraton**  
**Portsmouth Harborside**  
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

# Composting at the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel

Presentation by:  
Meghan Proctor

# Fast Facts

---

- Our program began in December 2009
- In 2010, we composted over 99 tons of organic materials!
- We divert an average of 8.25 tons per month away from landfills!
- Our composting program along with other sustainability efforts have earned us a Green Leadership Certification Award from NH Sustainable Lodging & Restaurant Program
- Improved employee morale, positive guest relations, significant environmental impact, and remaining 'cost neutral' – make this an all around successful initiative!

# Composting Program Logistics

---

- We consulted with several haulers/compost companies and selected the one that was able to best meet our needs.
- What works best for us:
  - Overnight Pick Up (approx 1:00am – 6 nights per week)
  - Compost barrels with covers on wheels that are easy to move around.
  - Bio-bag liners for barrels
  - Outside storage of “full” containers
  - Multiple containers placed around kitchen area for easy access by staff

# Composting in Action

---



- Yellow bins in kitchen for compostable waste
- Bins located in dish room area and throughout kitchen / back of house / employee cafe
- Compostable bag liner for each barrel (a specific brand was required by our compost facility)

# Training the Staff

- We included F&B staff in the planning process to gain buy-in
- The hotel Green Team promoted the positive environmental impacts
- Q&A meetings were conducted to dispel any “myths” (smells, time-consuming)
- Information boards were set up around the employee areas & near dish room/ other high volume waste can areas
- Employees were quizzed on compostable vs. non-compostable materials
- Contests were held for other ‘Green Suggestions’ to encourage environmental discussions



# Make it Fun!

## Compost Quiz!

### Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How much do you know about what goes into our compost containers? Test your knowledge by taking the compost quiz!

Of the following 40 items, only 22 are compostable and will go into the special waste bins. Write your answers in the box at the bottom of the page. When you are done, turn in your form to the suggestion box. If you get 100% correct, you will receive 2 STARFISH cards! But Hurry! The contest ends on November 30<sup>th</sup>!

### Following are common hotel waste items, can you pick out the compostable ones?

cocktail napkins	plastic straws	toothpicks	dollies
muffin wrapper	jelly packets	paper towel	paper coffee cup
coffee cup top	paper straw wrapper	aluminum foil	sugar packet wrapper
plastic stirrer	tea packaging	yogurt lid	coffee grounds
small pieces of paper	plastic wrap	bones	greasy paper towel
disposable gloves	lobster shells	cream cheese container	Styrofoam
bottle caps	wine corks	tape	room service tray liners
olive oil	tissues	bread	Sheraton pens
tea bags	micros receipts	oyster cracker packaging	candy wrappers
twist ties	wax paper	rotten vegetables	dead flowers

**YES, these items are compostable!! Write them below.**

1.	13.
2.	14.
3.	15.
4.	16.
5.	17.
6.	18.
7.	19.
8.	20.
9.	21.
10.	22.
11.	
12.	



- The Green Queen roamed around on composting kick off day!
- A compost quiz game was distributed with prizes!

# Financial Impact

---

- In 2010 we were 'cost neutral'
- By diverting our compostable waste in 2010, our landfill waste (dumpster) tonnage was reduced by an average of 45% each month
- We reduced our dumpster pulls during the year by over 50% (25 pulls in 2009 vs. 12 pulls in 2010)

# Contact Info

---

Meghan Proctor

Director of HR

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel

[mproctor@sheratonportsmouth.com](mailto:mproctor@sheratonportsmouth.com)

Direct: 603-559-2607

## **Our Hauler:**

Herb's Disposal

1-800-500-1439

## **Bio-Bags**

<http://www.biobagusa.com>