

Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown St. Petersburg Earns Two Palm Designation

A True Area Leader In The Florida Green Lodging Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2009 CONTACT: Cusic Daniels, Charter One Hotels & Resorts 941 364-9224 DEP Press Office, (850) 245-2112 THE Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown St. Petersburg RECEIVES FLORIDA TWO PALM GREEN LODGING PROGRAM DESIGNATION -Environmentally friendly hotel conserves resources, saves money and attracts customers- St Petersburg – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) welcomes the Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown St. Petersburg to the Florida Green Lodging Two Palm Designation Program. To achieve this level of designation a hotel/motel must have maintained the facility's One Palm status for at least 12 consecutive months prior to applying for Two Palm designation. They had to have conducted an environmental baseline assessment and demonstrate a reduction in energy and water consumption and a reduction in waste disposal. In addition, they must develop and implement performance improvement goals, and evaluate their progress. (www.stpetehampton.com) The voluntary state initiative provides the lodging industry with free technical assistance, encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving "green" practices that reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

"It is wonderful to see businesses implement green practices such as water conservation, recycling and energy reduction because they are not only good for business, they are good for Florida's environment," said DEP Sustainable Initiatives Director Deas Bohn.

To become a designated member of the Florida Green Lodging Program, hotels must implement a variety of green practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, water conservation measures through low flow plumbing fixtures, a linen reuse program, and energy efficiency achieved by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and programmable thermostats. The waste reduction criteria are met by providing the opportunity to recycle, purchasing items in bulk, purchasing recycled materials and by recycling ink and toner cartridges. All designated properties must also use green cleaners and high efficiency air filters. Launched in March 2004, the Florida Green Lodging Program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. In 2007 Governor Crist signed three executive orders initiating state energy-use policies, including one that requires state agencies and departments to hold meetings and conferences only at hotels with the Florida Green Lodging Program designation as of January 1, 2008, whenever possible. For more information about the Florida Green Lodging Program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

DEP's Office of Sustainable Initiatives is comprised of three voluntary, non-regulatory programs that assist Florida industry and citizens in protecting the environment. The Clean Marina Program, the Florida Green Lodging Program and the Florida Pollution Prevention Program offer a variety of services including on-site assessments, consultations, speakers and workshops, all at no cost to citizens or organizations. The goal of the Sustainable Initiatives programs is to meet the needs of the present population without compromising resources for future generations. To learn more about DEP's Sustainable Initiatives, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/green/.

About Charter One Hotels and Resorts, Inc.

Headquartered in Sarasota, Florida, Charter One provides hotel management services to the hotel industry. We provide on-site management, renovation, turnaround and development consulting, food and beverage consulting, and hotel sales and marketing services. Charter One is recognized as one of the top hotel management companies with proven tangible results. Charter One properties consistently operate at a higher occupancy, RevPar premiums and a stronger bottom line than other hotels in their immediate market.

Charter One Hotels & Resorts provides:

*Full Hotel Management Support *Specialized Hotel Sales & Marketing Plans *Hotel Staff Development & Training *Hotel Financial Reporting & Accounting Services *Hotel Franchise Evaluation & Relations *Hotel Purchasing & Design *Hotel Website Administration, Design, Virtual Tours (VRteam) and Optimization *Print, Media and E-Commerce Advertising

Charter One Hotels & Resorts was rated in the Top 100 Management Companies by Hotel Business Magazine from 2005 to 2008.. Charter One Hotels & Resorts is listed in The Gulf Coast 500 as one of the top companies in the Tampa Bay area.

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