

Throwing In The Towel

In recent years, many hotels have portrayed themselves as being environmentally sensitive by asking guests to re-use their towels. The Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington is out to demonstrate that being a green hotel takes a little more than promoting wet towels. The Hilton property is trying to earn a designation from the *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* certification program, or LEED for short.

“In keeping with the competition, however, Hilton will also ask guests to use the towel twice.”

The combination hotel and conference centre has a white roof to reflect heat, landscaping with native plants that require less monitoring, carbon dioxide sensors in meeting rooms to maintain the flow of fresh air, and plugs in the parking garage for electrical vehicles. As well, windows in guest rooms can be opened for guests who don't wish to use air conditioning. To reduce construction costs and transportation impacts, the hotel was built with materials that could be purchased within a 500 kilometer radius.

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