



Volcano House



Background:

As part of its ongoing commitment to green initiatives, Volcano House has developed variety of green programs that go above environmental compliance and take bold steps to reduce, reuse and recycle; to conserve Hawaii's natural resources; and to educate its employees and guests about the need for sustainable practices. These include:

An Employee-led Annual Environmental Program:

Volcano House employees lead its "Green Team" in implementing an environmental policy that includes annual goals for energy, water, and waste usage; tactical plans to reach those goals; and metrics to measure the results. To ensure continuous improvement, an ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System is utilized which includes once a year auditing by a third party certification vendor.

Energy Conservation Initiatives:

To conserve energy consumption, Volcano House uses EPA Energy Star Portfolio to constantly evaluate energy usage; offers free bicycle use to hotel guests; uses an on-demand hot water system for most hotel operations; and has installed LED lighting throughout the operation (100% in guest facing areas).

Water Conservation Initiatives:

Because all of the water used at Volcano House is sourced from the State's largest rainwater catchment system, water conservation is a key focus. To limit its water consumption, Volcano House utilizes a state-of-the-art recycled water system for dishwashing in the kitchen; has installed low-flow showerheads and dual flush toilets in guest rooms; and makes use of landscaping that does not require irrigation.

The efforts of these sustainable practices at Volcano House have resulted in annual reduced consumption of electricity by approximately 200,000 KWHs or 50%; and in reduced consumption of water by approximately 2,000,000 gallons or 25% normalized by revenue. At current rates this represents a savings of \$125,000.

Other important initiatives contributing to the sustainable initiatives at Volcano House include:

Waste Reduction Initiatives:

Volcano House participates in the EPA-backed WasteWise program, including annual recycling of an estimated 30 tons, including all paper products, glass, metals, plastics, and HI 5 containers; eliminating plastic water bottles by providing reusable water containers in guest rooms and selling reusable water bottles in retail shops; efforts to reduce glass bottle waste by using kegs as much as possible; use of bulk amenity dispensers throughout operations including in guest rooms; and efforts to eliminate cardboard waste by using reusable containers for local produce and bakery deliveries. Volcano House also participates in the EPA-backed Food Recovery Challenge Program, including an annual donation of more than 10 tons of food waste to a local farmer for animal feed.

Sustainable Purchasing Initiatives:

In addition to using paper products with minimum 30% post-consumer recycled content, including only recycled content and/or compostable to-go containers, more than 90% of all Volcano House menu ingredients are sourced from within the island. This includes a partnership with Johnson Farms, a family-run operation in the Puna district, where 5-acres are dedicated to growing organic ingredients for the Volcano House menu.

Sustainable Cultural Activities:

Volcano House believes in the importance of sharing its passion for protecting the *aina* with guests through educational programs. These include partnering with locally-run Kapohokine Adventures for their Farm, Fork, & Fire tour, including visits to island food sources like the Hamakua mushroom farms and the Volcano Winery, before finishing off at Volcano House with a cooking demonstration that utilizes those and other local ingredients. Volcano House also partners with Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to provide daily park tours for hotel guests, offers weekly lei-making demonstrations in the hotel lobby for all visitors free of charge, hosts daily cultural events during the Christmas holiday season including local musicians, dancers, storytelling, and Hawaiian cultural demonstrations, and is a proud sponsor of the National Park Service's Artist-in-Residence program.