



Green Business Hawaii
Sixth Annual Recognition Program
April 20, 2011
WATG



WATG
designing destinations

One of the hallmarks of WATG is its sensitivity to the influences of the local culture and the environment. As an architecture, design and planning firm, we have a responsibility to preserve and enhance those qualities that give a location its special character: the culture, the natural resources, the people and the spirit of the place. For WATG, this is not a design trend but rather a design philosophy that dates back to the firm's first project in 1945.

As evidence of WATG's leadership in this arena, we have been contributing insights and expertise to the International Tourism Partnership's sustainable hotel guidelines and publications since 1992. In addition, WATG was the only architecture firm invited to advise the US Green Building Council on adapting LEED certification requirements for hotels.

WATG's environmental policy

We want our legacy to be a positive one—both in our built projects and within our firm. We strive to provide current and innovative solutions for our clients seeking to pursue a sustainable and environmentally responsible design approach. As part of this commitment, we implement the following initiatives:

- ❖ Use our skills as architects, designers and planners to improve the way the development community approaches the built environment
- ❖ Stay abreast of current “best practices” in sustainable development, and always ask questions
- ❖ Promote the potential gains of employing a sustainable approach to our clients and development partners
- ❖ Maintain the integrity and quality of the natural environments in which we work
- ❖ Respect the culture and the people of the local area, and utilize traditional artisans and building techniques to increase local employment
- ❖ Use a site's natural resources and materials and in a way that considers the future
- ❖ Encourage responsible use of energy and initiatives to recycle consumables
- ❖ Improve awareness of environmental and sustainability issues

WATG's reduce, reuse, recycle policy

We are committed to a green future, and, as such, we take the following measures to reduce our carbon-footprint and foster sustainability:

- ❖ Encourage employees to recycle paper, reduce unwanted mail, use electronic files rather than paper ones, practice efficient copying, print two-sided pages whenever possible, reuse envelopes as both send and return envelopes, and eliminate fax cover sheets by using “sticky” notes. WATG has reduced paper use by one-third by enforcing double-sided printing.
- ❖ In the kitchen, use permanent ware (mugs, dishes, utensils, etc.).
- ❖ Select products with the least packaging and/or which have easily recyclable packaging, and choose vendors who take back products after their shelf life is over or work with vendors to minimize product packaging.
- ❖ Lease, rather than purchase, equipment (i.e. computers, printers, and copiers)

- ❖ For Shipping items, use shredded paper for packing instead of Styrofoam.
- ❖ Donate or exchange unwanted furniture, supplies, electronics, scrap materials, etc.
- ❖ Purchase boxes and/or bags made from recycled paper or plastic soda bottle.
- ❖ Select service providers that promote waste reduction and green business practices.
- ❖ Use a procurement policy to purchase electronic equipment and appliances with energy saving features (Energy Star labeled).
- ❖ Use hardware that saves energy by automatically turning off idle monitors.
- ❖ Purchase recycled and low VOC paint products when available.
- ❖ Use fluorescent lights with low or no mercury fluorescent lights.
- ❖ Use unbleached or chlorine-free paper products.
- ❖ Reuse or buy recycled/remanufactured toner cartridges.
- ❖ Use rechargeable batteries, appliances, such as hand-held vacuum cleaners.
- ❖ Use non-toxic water-based markers.
- ❖ Print promotional materials with soy or other low-VOC inks.
- ❖ Do business with other “green” vendors or services such as those listed in the Environmental Product Guide.
- ❖ Use natural or low emissions building materials, carpets, or furniture.
- ❖ WATG has realized an 80% cost savings on plastic and paper products as a result of conservation measures.

WATG has been privileged to be involved in a number of unique projects around the world which incorporate sustainable and environmentally responsible design. The firm’s policy is to respect the unique environment and cultural heritage of each host country, region or community, and to make a positive contribution to the lives and culture of that area. Our mission, “*designing destinations that lift the spirit.*”