

News Release

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Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
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DELEG Announces Green Lodging Certification for Westin Southfield

Facility Moves Up From Steward Level, Achieves Leader Status

December, 2010 – Westin Southfield has earned Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) Leader certification from the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG), moving up from the Steward level. Westin Southfield was originally certified in May 2010. Leader is the highest level of certification available through Green Lodging Michigan.

Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) encourages hotels, resorts, motels, and bed & breakfast facilities to implement environmental initiatives and cost-saving “green” practices to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, protect air quality, reduce waste, and participate in environmentally preferred purchasing. There are three levels of certification: Partner, Steward, and Leader which can be earned by completing a self-assessment checklist and achieving a minimum number of requirements and points. The more environmental initiatives a facility is doing, the higher the level of certification the facility can potentially achieve.

“Hoteliers across the state who are committed to green business practices are earning this accreditation as the mark of environmental responsibility,” said DELEG Acting Director Andrew S. Levin. “Green Lodging Michigan is an investment in the viability of our lodging facilities and the thousands of jobs related to Michigan’s hospitality industry.”

Westin Southfield implemented additional environmental initiatives that earned the hotel higher accreditation such as improved staff training in environmental initiatives, using Energy Star-certified vending machines, and contracting with a lighting service for parking lot lighting and recycling of old bulbs.

“We are extremely proud of our sustainability efforts that show our commitment to the community and the planet,” said Westin Southfield General Manager Jerry Tononi. “Every day we find new ways to reduce, reuse or recycle throughout the hotel and our guests have been quick to join us in the effort.”

Green Lodging Michigan is a joint effort between DELEG and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) to encourage the lodging industry to conserve and protect the state's natural resources while increasing marketability and lowering utility costs.

"Green Lodging Michigan has been an effective way of including hoteliers in the effort to help Michigan continue as the leader in environmental beauty and abundant natural resources," said Rebecca A. Humphries, director, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

Green Lodging Michigan is a voluntary and non-regulatory certification program offered through the Bureau of Energy Systems in DELEG to hoteliers at no charge. The Bureau of Energy Systems and the DNRE provide technical assistance to those who are interested in implementing "green" strategies and earning certification. The GLM program certifies facilities based on environmental initiatives such as air quality, energy efficiency, solid waste reduction, toxic waste management, water conservation, purchasing and communication.

The Bureau of Energy Systems promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy resource development to Michigan's residents, businesses, and public institutions. For more information about the Green Lodging Michigan program and to download the GLM application packet and self-assessment checklist, visit the website at www.michigan.gov/greenlodging.

For more information about DELEG, please visit www.michigan.gov/deleg.

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