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First Annual Green Hospitality Certification Awards Program 32 Companies Receive DEM-Approved Green Certification on Earth Day

Providence, RI – *April 22, 2008* – This Earth Day restaurants, hotels, and other hospitality related businesses from across the state gathered at the Rhode Island Convention Center for the Green Hospitality Certification Awards Program. These businesses were the first in the state to be recognized by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for completing all the certification requirements of the Green Hospitality Certification Program.

Launched in January, the Green Hospitality Certification Program is certification program developed through a partnership with DEM, RIHTA, Rhode Island Division of Tourism, Providence Warwick CVB, Newport County CVB, Warwick Division of Tourism, Culture and Development, Rhode Island Airport Corporation, Rhode Island Convention Center Authority, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, the Procaccianti Group and Newport Harbor Corporation.

The new program charts a road map for hospitality and tourism businesses to employ green business practices with a focus on energy conservation, water conservation, waste minimization and recycling, and sustainable operating and purchasing practices. To participate businesses are required to complete a workbook created by DEM that measures business policies and practices. Upon completion of the workbook, DEM reviews and scores these businesses. Businesses that score above 100 on the assessment receive DEM Green certification. Going forward, companies may apply for certification on a rolling basis

“I am extremely pleased to see so many Rhode Island businesses in the hospitality industry receive their Green Hospitality Certification,” said Dale J. Venturini, president and CEO of RIHTA. The overwhelming response proves that going green is not only the right thing to do for our environment, but is good for the bottom line as more business and leisure

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travelers make buying decisions based a company's environmental footprint."

"The Green Hospitality Certification Program proves that through cooperation and collaboration employing sustainable green practices can be achieved," said DEM Director W. Michael Sullivan, PhD. "The partnership between DEM, RIHTA, the CVBs and tourism agencies, and private industry sets a new standard in working together to make long-lasting improvements to our environment. I commend and congratulate the businesses that earned Green Hospitality Certification, and encourage all industries in Rhode Island to seek ways to lessen their impact on the environment."

The following 32 business are the first to achieve DEM approved green certification:

Lodging Facilities

Bay Voyage Interval Owner's Association
Hilton Garden Inn Providence/Warwick
Hilton Providence
Holiday Inn - South County/Newport
Hotel Viking
Hyatt Regency Newport Hotel & Spa
Inn on Long Wharf/Wyndham Properties
Inn on the Harbor/Wyndham Properties
Long Wharf Resort/Wyndham Properties
Newport Onshore/Wyndham Properties
Providence Marriott Downtown
Radisson Hotel Providence Harbor
Renaissance Providence Hotel
The Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina
The Hotel Providence
Vanderbilt Hall
Westin Providence

Restaurants

10 Prime Steak and Sushi
22 Bowen's Wine Bar & Grille
Boat House Waterfront Dining
Chinese Laundry
Citron Wine Bar and Bistro
Gregg's Restaurant
The Mooring Restaurant

Pranzi Catering
Rick's Roadhouse
Rue De L'Espoir
Ted's Montana Grill
Eleven Forty Nine Restaurant
XO Steakhouse

Other

Newport Hospitality, Inc.
Rhode Island Convention Center

For more information on the DEM-approved Green Hospitality Certification, please visit
www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/assist/grncert/index.htm.

About the Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association

With more than 600 foodservice and hospitality members in Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association has been the voice of the hospitality and tourism industry in the state for 25 years. For more information on the Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association, please call (401) 223-1120 or visit www.rihospitality.org.