


# LODGING

## QUICK GREEN CHECKLIST



Eco-tourist expectations show up on a greener part of the tourism spectrum, naturally. This guide should help operators of ecotourism destinations and services quickly judge how green their operations appear to discerning customers. We have included indicators to help you prioritize – green flags identify visible signs of green operations and dollar signs indicate relative investment to make a change.

A green flag item indicates something that would be obvious to an ardent ecotourist. For instance, it would be a green flag item to put out the clock your mother-in-law got you before she visits. 

Dollar signs on the right side of checklist show the expected costs from least to most costly:

\$ = least costly / \$\$\$\$ = most costly

Items arranged from easy and most obvious to less easy and less obvious.

The most valuable client is one with whom you have a positive relationship – one who enjoys sharing the experience you offer and tells others. Besides the guide, we offer sample language you can use to build that relationship through a call to action. One note about hanging up the towels just is not enough.

Certifications are available for hotels that save big on water, energy, and operating costs and for demonstrating commitment to sustainable operation to your guests. The EPA has a list of these certifications and programs [here](#), and WaterSense has a program called the H2Otel Challenge learn more about it [here](#).






An \* on the list below indicates suggested language/fact sheet for customer education available.






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### INTERIOR WATER USE:

### INFORMATION

### COST:

	<input type="checkbox"/> Any dripping sinks, showerheads, or running toilets reported to the maintenance and management by housekeeping.*[1]	<a href="#">Why?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Linen/towel reuse program in place to offer multiple night guests the option to reuse towels/linens.*[2]	<a href="#">Why and How?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Visible reminders to conserve water in the bathroom, kitchen, etc.	<a href="#">Examples.</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual reminders of what can and cannot be flushed with a septic tank.	<a href="#">Examples.</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Water fixtures are WaterSense labeled equipment and meet WaterSense standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faucets/faucet aerators: 1.5 GPM or less</li> <li>Showerhead: 2.0 GPM or less</li> <li>Toilets: 1.28 GPF or less</li> </ul>	<a href="#">What and Why?</a> <a href="#">What and Why?</a> <a href="#">What and Why?</a>	\$\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover any swimming pools and hot tubs, if any, to reduce evaporation leading to the reduction of the need to empty and refill.	<a href="#">What, How, Why?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensor faucets for guest bedrooms (reduces water overflow and saves on water usage). Remember to purchase those with WaterSense labels.		\$\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Install a greywater system.	<a href="#">Why?</a> <a href="#">How?</a>	\$\$\$\$
<b>EXTERIOR WATER USE:</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant indigenous/native plants that are not water needy.	<a href="#">Why and How?</a> <a href="#">Nebraska Publications</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose to water plants in the evenings instead of in the morning or during the heat of the day, to reduce evaporation.	<a href="#">Why?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Water infrequently and deeply. Have a rain gauge so you know how much less water to provide your plants after a rain.	<a href="#">Why?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Capture rainwater and reuse.		\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use mulch, it reduces evaporation rates in the soil.	<a href="#">Why and How?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tune up irrigation system, use drip irrigation instead of sprinklers.	<a href="#">What, How, and Why?</a>	\$\$

<input type="checkbox"/>	For maximum effectiveness of drip irrigation systems, use WaterSense certified timers or controllers.	<a href="#">What and Why?</a>	\$\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider green infrastructure like permeable pavers, rain gardens, bioswales, constructed wetland, etc.,	<a href="#">What? / Green Infrastructure Wizard</a> (EPA Tool)	\$\$\$
<b>INTERIOR ENERGY USE:</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> All lighting used is energy efficient lighting (exit signs too).	<a href="#">What?</a>	\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reminders above light switches to turn off lights.	<a href="#">Pinterest examples / Others</a>	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rooms have windows covered in some way (reflective film, mini blinds, or insulated drapes).	<a href="#">What and How?</a>	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pools and hot tubs covered once closed to reduce heat loss.	<a href="#">Why and How?</a>	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Install occupancy sensors for low traffic areas like closets and storage.	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vending misers installed on vending machines.	<a href="#">Why and What? How?</a>	\$\$\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smart refrigerators (specifically for hotels, fridges that switch to energy savings mode after so many hours of inactivity).	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy Star certified windows.	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$
<b>EXTERIOR ENERGY USE:</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> All outside lighting uses efficient light bulbs.	<a href="#">Why and What?</a>	\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric car chargers within a mile and designated parking spots for hybrids. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a policy set in place for EV charging.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">What and How?</a>	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Install occupancy sensors for lights outside, such as floodlights.	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Configure lamps to ensure low light pollution.	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Solar panels installed.		\$\$\$\$
<b>INTERIOR WASTE:</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Customer facing recycling bins in each room with signage illustrating what to recycle locally.	In remote areas, source reduction (prevention) is a better practice than recycling.	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recycle paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, and metals	<a href="#">Why recycle? How?</a>	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Employee facing recycling bins in office and other work areas.		\$

	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel information and brochures in a condensed singular form or displayed on a TV in the lobby. (instead of multiple paper brochures)		\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not use single-use plastics, plastic cutlery, plastic bags, etc.	<a href="#">What and Why?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic mugs instead of paper/foam cups, glasses instead of paper/plastic/foam cups, cloth napkins instead of paper napkins, metal utensils instead of plastic, and mesh coffee filters instead of paper filters.		\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Guestrooms have refillable amenity dispensers for shampoo, soap, conditioner, and the like, rather than individual containers.	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$
<b>EXTERIOR WASTE:</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not use a burn barrel for waste.	<a href="#">Why?</a>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compost facility on-site, or at an off-site facility, for food and yard waste.	<a href="#">Why, What, and How?</a>	\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chickens have advantages over compost.	<a href="#">Why?</a>	\$\$

**Customer fact sheet – for inclusion in the room notebook or posted at point of use**

[1] – Our extremely conscientious staff will fix anything they see, but you may see something they do not. Let us know!

[2] – You have probably seen the linen reuse option elsewhere. Ours is a little different because ecotourist like you prefer the reuse option. Just let us know if you want fresh linens.