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DELEG Announces Green Lodging Certification for Westin Hotel Detroit Metropolitan Airport Facility Earns Steward Certification

April 5, 2011 - The Westin Hotel Detroit Metropolitan Airport has earned Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) Steward certification from the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG).

Green Lodging Michigan 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.

"Cost-saving green business practices have been extremely positive for job creation and retention in the hospitality sector," said DELEG Director Steven H. Hifinger. "Hoteliers across the state are continuing to show their commitment to environmental responsibility by earning Green Lodging accreditation."

The Westin Hotel Detroit Metropolitan Airport has implemented several environmental initiatives at their facility. They have a linen and towel reuse program as well as low flow faucets and toilets to conserve water. They reduce waste by recycling paper, aluminum, cardboard, plastic, and other materials. The Westin Detroit has also installed Energy Star lighting and equipment as well as advanced lighting controls for public spaces and common areas of the facility. The hotel has also recently had an energy audit to help identify other energy conservation options.

"The Westin Hotel Detroit Metropolitan Airport supports wellness and environmentally safe initiatives and our team promotes sustainable choices throughout the hotel," said Denise Bednarczyk, director of Sales & Marketing at The Westin Detroit. "We take pride in leading by example and encourage our guests to make a difference as well."

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

"The DEQ encourages businesses around the state to find better ways to use energy and resources, and Green Lodging Michigan has been a great way to help hoteliers identify green solutions and be recognized for their efforts," said DEQ Director Dan Wyant. "Congratulations to the Westin Hotel Detroit Metropolitan Airport for stepping up to the challenge and working to make a difference."

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 DEQ 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. 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 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. Follow DELEG at <http://twitter.com/MIDELEG>, visit the "DELEG" page on Facebook and Become a Fan or visit the Michigan Government channel on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/michigangovernment>

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