

Palmer House Hilton first to use Green Globes System

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Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels completed an energy and sustainability analysis of the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago, marking the first time the Green Globes system has been used to assess energy and sustainability features at a hotel.

The Green Globes rating system was designed to evaluate and rate the best energy and environmental practices in the management and operation of existing buildings. The goals of the program are to monitor current practices and identify opportunities to save energy and water, reduce waste and prevent water, air and land pollution during building management and operation, based upon the key elements of eco-efficiency. The program involves a graduated rating system designed to recognize buildings that have achieved various levels of energy and environmental performance.

Having achieved success in setting the industry standard for office buildings, Green Globes has partnered with Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels to create a model for the hotel industry.

In the case of Palmer House Hilton, the assessment provided benchmarks for energy, water, waste and indoor air quality indicators, providing performance measurement for the building, and identifying best management practices and areas of improvement.

"Our approach is focused on three components: operational improvements, energy procurement, and capital investments," said Jiri Skopek, managing director of Jones Lang LaSalle and developer of the original Green Globes platform as well as the new hotel module. "We expect that the 1,640-room Palmer House Hilton can expand upon its already proactive sustainable practices."

Eric Tschudy, the property engineer for the Palmer House Hilton, agreed: "Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels' program was an excellent next step for us, given the sustainability practices we had in place, and the existing building structure of the Palmer House Hilton. ... This tool supports my teams' work in achieving best sustainable practices. This is important to our business, and it's important to our clients."

Hilton hotels are showing leadership in the industry with their internal SPORT (Sustainable Property Opportunity Report Tracking) and HEAT (Hilton Environmental Analysis & Tracking) Programs.