



## **Gainesville I-75 Marriott Hotel Certified EcoRooms & EcoSuites, First in Florida**

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Residence Inn by Marriott Gainesville I-75 - a 118-suites new hotel located three miles from University of Florida - is an exceptional new build on a restored EPA 'brownfield' site.

Having opened its doors just over one year ago after extensive restoration of the land that was once polluted but has been restored to pristine condition, the property has met EcoRooms & EcoSuites certification standards.

The [Residence Inn](#) has become the first-ever Marriott branded hotel property and the first hotel in the state of Florida to be EcoRooms & EcoSuites Certified. Both AH&LA and AAA distinguish the certification as a go-to resource for both hoteliers and consumers looking to verify how important the environment is to the green hotel. To add to the list, it has also achieved Florida's Green Lodging certification.

"We believe the hospitality industry is embracing the opportunity and the challenge of sustainable operations and are proud to be a part of it," says General Manager Chris Lewis. "It supports our core philosophy and commitment to lessen our environmental impact and to be a good steward within the community. We're honored to have achieved the Certified status and we will continue to extend our green value to our guests."

The property was designed from the top down with the environment in mind. Cool Roofing Council certified its roofing materials. Its framing structure was made from 90% post consumer recycled steel. Demolition and construction wastes were recycled. The property is xeriscaped to save water, featuring all native plants, minimal turf areas and a water-saving irrigation system. The developers even bonded a 100+-year-old live oak tree to ensure its survival.

### **The road to Green**

Besides green design, the [green hotel](#) incorporated various green initiatives in its operating procedures, including:

- Using Green Seal certified or equivalent cleaning and paper products in guestrooms
- Bathrooms feature [amenity dispensers](#) or small, practical amenity sizes with guests encouraged to take the remainder of their bathroom amenities home or donate them to homeless shelters
- Linen and towel reuse program
- Easily identified recycling receptacles
- Energy-efficient lighting using CFL and LED technology
- High efficiency plumbing with low-flush toilets, water-efficient aerators and low-flow showerheads
- 100% smoke-free

The green hotel has also benchmarked itself with industry leaders utilizing the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, with the help of [EcoGreenHotel](#). It's a critical step for the hotel to monitor the utility usage data and measure the results of their energy efficiency and conservation strategies.

### **Beyond hospitality**

Social responsibility is a major component of the hotel's sustainability initiative. "We take social responsibility to heart and want our guests to know our dedication to help communities – its not just about the environment, its about humanity too," says Lewis.

As part of their contribution to the welfare of others, the Residence Inn is a proud supporter and contributor of Habitat for Humanity and Children's Miracle Network (CMN). The Hotel raised \$7,000 for CMN during their Grand opening, another \$5,861 on their anniversary celebration and contributed over \$16,000 in numerous ways throughout the past year. Not to mention, you'll find the hotel's committed employees answering phones in CMN's upcoming radiothon.

"We began implementing our initiatives within the past two years and have really received a lot of positive comments from our staff members and guests, as well as financial results," says Lewis. "We believe that going green is a winning business strategy that has the added benefit of being the right thing to do for society and our planet."

**About EcoGreenHotel**

EcoGreenHotel LLC is a privately held company dedicated to helping lodging facilities address a broad spectrum of sustainability issues. The company provides information, tools, checklists, current news and trends to the hospitality industry through its website, [www.EcoGreenHotel.com](http://www.EcoGreenHotel.com). In 2009, the company launched an online marketplace for green products and services at [www.EcoGreenHotelStore.com](http://www.EcoGreenHotelStore.com). In addition to the online offerings, EcoGreenHotel provides customized consulting services tailored to the needs of the hospitality industry in the areas of energy efficiency and certifications, including LEED, Green Seal and Energy Star. For those properties that have reached certified levels of sustainability, EcoGreenHotel assists with marketing services to position the properties within the growing "green" space and enhance revenue. For further information, email [info@EcoGreenHotel.com](mailto:info@EcoGreenHotel.com) or call 888.229.0213.

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