



Here at Pilgrim's Inn and the Whale's Rib Tavern, we are deeply committed to reducing our impact on the environment. We believe that climate change, the loss of biodiversity, toxic chemicals in our food and everyday household items, air and water quality, are serious challenges that we as a society must address immediately.

The hospitality industry tends to be very wasteful, but changes are rapidly occurring as more and more establishments are taking steps to reduce their energy use, change their purchasing patterns, and eliminate the use of toxic chemicals. Toward this end, Pilgrim's Inn has been certified by the State of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection as an Environmental Leader in the hospitality sector. Lodging establishments receiving this certification must score 100 points or more on a rigorous certification process. Below are the actions we have taken to receive our certification.

Kitchen and Housekeeping Departments

- Eliminated the use of Styrofoam food containers in food service and replaced them with biodegradable containers made from sugar cane.
- Use non-toxic cleaners that do not contain chlorine bleach or phosphates, where possible (note: due to state regulations, chlorine must be used as a disinfectant in the kitchen).
- Purchase food from local farms and purchase organic when financially feasible.
- Purchase supplies in bulk and avoid single use type products.

Administrative Offices and Purchasing/Recycling

- Use 100% recycled copy paper; re-use paper printed on one side
- Cut up used paper for office notes
- Recycle computer disks and ink cartridges
- Recycle cans and bottles
- Adopt and display an environmental policy

Landscaping

- Eliminate chemicals in the gardens, use organic fertilizers; plant native plants

Guest Rooms

- Offer guests option not to have sheets and towels changed every day in an effort to reduce energy use and detergent waste.

- Use refillable amenity dispensers rather than individual containers for shampoo, conditioner, soaps and lotions

Water Conservation

- Use 2.2 gpm faucets and aerators' 1.6 gpf toilets, 2.5 gpm showerheads. Any existing showerheads, faucets and aerators that exceed these flow rates are on a schedule for replacement within 2 years.

Energy

- Replaces over 100 light bulbs to compact fluorescents. All indoor lighting not currently energy efficient is on a 5 year replacement program.

Other

- Drive a hybrid vehicle for business purposes
- Donate used cooking oil for use as bio-diesel
- Reduce carbon imprint by giving away compact fluorescent bulbs to guests and other creative solutions.

What can you do?

As a guest at Pilgrim's Inn, there are many small things you can do to reduce your impact on the environment during your stay and back at home.

During your stay

- Choose to re-use your towels while at the inn.
- Recycle your soda and water bottles by leaving them next to your trash container
- Buy local products
- Take an "eco-tour" around the island to learn more about the natural history of Deer Isle and the challenges it is facing as a fishing community
- Visit a nature preserve and make sure to leave only footprints when you go
- Ride a bike

At home

- Replace your light bulbs at home with compact fluorescents (this has significant energy savings and is one of the most important things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint)
- Keep your tires inflated on your car (this greatly reduces drag and increases your mileage per gallon). Reduce the number of trips in your car by coordinating your errands.
- Go the speed limit (It is estimated that for every 5 miles you go over 65 that you are spending \$0.20 more per gallon)
- Use certified green cleaning products in your home
- Buy local, buy organic if possible
- Walk, ride a bike or use public transportation to work if possible