

Good morning everyone. My name is Amber Hodgson and I work for Canalta Hotels. I am so honoured to be able to speak to everyone this morning on Canalta Hotels Environmental Vision, commitment and our best practices. Just a little bit of background on Canalta as I know many of you are currently staying in one of properties in town. Canalta Hotels is a family owned and operated company, who has a system of 36 hotels across Alberta and Saskatchewan. We recognize environmental protection as one of our guiding principles and key components of our business performance. We are committed to providing a quality hospitality experience in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and by minimizing our potential impact on the environment through strong environmental policies and tried best practices. As an employee of Canalta I am thrilled to work for a company who continually attempts to reduce their need for non-renewable resources and constantly works to decrease the amount of waste the company generates in order to lessen their footprint on the environment.

One of Canalta's current Best Practises is Energy Conservation. Canalta has a "lights out policy" where all employees are encouraged to turn out all non-essential lights when they are not being used. In relation to this Canalta has also started replacing all the light bulbs in all of our properties with CF bulbs, LED bulbs, and other energy efficient bulbs. In some of our properties in rooms such as: the stairwells, guests laundry, mechanical rooms, maintenance rooms, and public washrooms; we have installed motion censored lighting. We currently are looking at converting the public areas in the rest of our hotels to have these censored lights by 2014.

In our hotel rooms most of our properties also have motion sensors that are attached to the HVAC equipment in the room. (The HVAC equipment is machine that cools and heats each guest room.) When a new guest enters the room these sensors sense the guest's activity which than allows the guest to adjust the thermostat to their desired temperature. 15-20 min after the guest decides to leave the room, the seniors notify the HVAC unit turning it to sleep mode. Sleep mode drops the temperature slightly to maintain a predetermined temperature, until the next time someone comes in to the room. If the room has not been rented for 2-3 days the HVAC unit goes into a deep sleep mode which adjusts the room into an even lower temperature in order to be energy efficient.

One major key that Canalta has found imperative in our Environmental Vision is to educate and train all of our staff. An example of this is: the housekeeping staff at each of our properties are trained to ensure that the curtains in each of our guests rooms are in place to prevent or aid to solar heating depending on the season. So in summer time the blinds will be left closed so that room stays cooler thus reducing energy by using less air-conditioning. Also monthly staff meetings at property level must include training on at least one environmental issue. It is

important that all associates are trained on Canata's environmental policies, best practices and initiatives upon orientation. Also in the orientation process each staff member is asked to fill out our Environmental commitment form. This form is where the employee pledges to act in an environmentally friendly manor. Each employee is made aware that their contribution to Canalta's green initiatives helps us lessen our footprint on the environment.

Another one of Canalta's Best Practices is water conservation. All of our properties have in place a linen re-use program. This program is where we ask guests to use their bed linens and towels more than once. In doing this the guest helps make a large impact on the environment by saving gallons of water on a monthly basis. We also have a preventative maintenance plan in place where our maintenance personnel check for water leaks, drips, and running toilets. Other things that Canalta does to help preserve water are simple things like having low flow shower heads, low flow toilets, and drought resistant landscaping. All exterior irrigation for lawn or plant life is operated on a timer and or sensor to avoid over-watering. Canalta has also committed to buying only Energy Star Related equipment for each of our properties.

The 3rd best practice of Canalta's is waste management and reduction. This is very similar to Alberta CARE's focus on promoting the benefits and importance of recycling. Every Canalta property has a comprehensive recycling plan with recycle bins available in every guest room. We recycle bottles, paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, and aluminum cans. We are also working towards a training program that includes recycling our old light bulbs and batteries. Just as important as collecting the recyable materials Canalta employees are also being trained on how to properly sort them. All Canalta associates are additionally encouraged to conserve paper by reducing the amount of paper generated so that it doesn't need to be recycled. Whenever possible we communicated electronically by mail instead of faxing. We are also encouraged to always consider the environment before printing and if we need to print something we try to use both sides of the paper when necessary.

Canalta also donates all materials and supplies that no longer meet our hotel's standards. These items are collected and reused within the hotel or they are donated to local charities. We donate our used linens and towels to the humane society, women's shelters, and other relief programs. Also all of our hotels are members of the CLEAN THE WORLD recycling program.

So I just wanted to talk a bit about the Clean the World program because it is a great initiative that I am sure most of you do not know about. The Clean the World Foundation is non-profit charitable organization committed to reducing the waste created by discarded soaps, shampoos, conditioners, and lotions specifically from hotels. Clean the World accomplishes its mission by recycling these hygiene items at its Recycling Operations Center and distributes

them for humanitarian purposes. The items are then distributed to children and families in communities around the globe in order to help prevent the millions of deaths caused by hygiene-related illnesses around the world. So now I am just going to play a short little video to give you a better idea of what Clean the World is about.

PLAY VIDEO

So since its launch in 2009, Clean the World has eliminated more than 1.4 million lbs of hotel waste from polluting local landfills. These used hygiene items that we collect from our hotel rooms significantly help reduce the impact of acute respiratory infection and diarrheal disease. Last year our Vice President, Brooke Christianson, was so inspired by this program that he took a trip to Guatemala to see how Clean the World was impacting individuals in need of these items. Here are some pictures of his trip.

So far I have shared with you Canalta's best practices in energy conservation, water conservation and waste management reduction. I wanted to conclude my speech by taking about Canalta's Environmental vision when it comes to community involvement. Every April, 22 all of our properties participate in Earth Day by doing something special with their hotel staff to celebrate our commitment to the environment. Here are some ideas that our properties came up with last April. Many properties chose to do a garbage cleanup day where they went around the community and picked up garbage. Others choose to help the environment by planting trees. This picture is of one of our properties who chose to recycle pallets from the local UFA by making the pallets into shelving units. They then sold the shelving units and gave the proceeds to their local food bank. These are just many great examples that the staff came up with.

Another great example of Canalta being Green through supporting the community: is this year we installed a new electric car plug in station in Brooks Alberta. Canalta is also a member of the Hotel Association of Canada's Green Key Eco-Rating Program. There are many great programs out there to help companies or individuals go Green. Unfortunately we are living on this planet as if we have another one to go to, but we don't. Environmental decisions need to be considered in all day to day business decisions. And with that thought in mind I am excited to announce that in 2013 Canalta will be switching all of our hotels over to USDA Certified bio-based cleaning products. These sustainable products are derived from renewable resources – living matter such as soybeans and corn. Currently no pressurized aerosol containers are permitted in our properties but we are taking it one step further to avoid many of the health and environmental consequences of using fossil fuels. These Products are healthier and safer for the user and the environment. I would like to finish here this morning by saying I am appalled groups like you and Alberta CARE who promote recycling and waste management as part of the

day-to-day lifestyle and culture of Albertans. I appreciate the opportunity to share this with you. Thank you so much for listening to me speak about Canalta's Environmental vision and best practices. I hope you all enjoy the rest of your conference.