

Sanibel Island's first and only Green Lodge designation goes to Ocean's Reach Condominiums Resort

Conversion will help protect sanctuary and beaches on Gulf of Mexico island

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLA. -- The spoonbills, egrets and rare shells on Florida's unblemished white-sand beaches are a little safer now: Ocean's Reach Condominiums, a beachfront property on the Gulf of Mexico, has become the first – and only – lodging facility on Sanibel Island to be designated a Florida Green Lodge by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

“[Ocean's Reach Condominiums Resort](#) and Sanibel Island are sanctuaries not just for our guests, but also for the plants and wildlife that have lived here for hundreds of years. By recycling and conserving energy, we will keep the area as pristine as possible,” said Andy Boyle, general manager. “It's an honor to be part of the Florida Green Lodging Program, and we hope every facility on Sanibel joins us.”

Launched in March 2004 by the state's Department of Environmental Protection, the [Florida Green Lodging Program](#) establishes environmental guidelines for lodging facilities to stem pollution and conserve resources. Once a property commits to the certification process, its management submits to a thorough self-assessment, followed by a visit from a trained assessor, who performs a detailed walk-through of the facility to ensure it has met all program requirements.

Ocean's Reach board and management committed to going green regardless of the cost because guests were asking for it. They were pleasantly surprised.

“Becoming conservation-minded didn't impact our operations in a negative way. On the contrary, we found more efficient ways to do things,” said Dru Anne Doyle, sales and marketing manager. “It took months of teamwork, planning, organization and a concerted effort by our vendors and staff, but we believe it will enhance our bottom line as well as our guests' experience.”

As a reward for earning the Green Lodging designation, Florida recommends awardees such as Ocean's Reach to companies and trade organizations seeking environmentally conscious lodging and convention facilities. Moreover, one of Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's initiatives includes a requirement that state agencies and departments hold meetings and conferences at hotels with Florida Green Lodging Program designation whenever possible.

Ocean's Reach has achieved One Palm Designation, signifying it has demonstrated best practices in communication, water conservation, energy efficiency, waste reduction and clean air.

Only a handful of other states – California, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin – have similar programs.

MEDIA:

Ocean's Reach will receive its official designation at a ceremony hosted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 5 p.m. on July 17 at Ocean's Reach, 2230 Camino Del Mar, Sanibel Island.

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*Ocean's Reach Condominiums is a vacation resort complex on the gulf-front beach of Sanibel Island, Florida, near the [Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge](#). Four buildings, four stories and four condos wide total 64 unique and brand-new condos distinctly furnished and accessorized by individual owners from across the country. Rentals available. Just 19 steps to the beach!
Visit oceansreach.com*

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