



THE OAKS AT OJAI
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RELEASE AT WILL

THE OAKS AT OJAI 'Green' Practices Fact Sheet

Conservation has been The Oaks at Ojai's philosophy since its inception 30 years ago. While The Oaks touts conservation and making good choices when applied to eating habits, it also has been dedicated to conserving resources and protecting the environment – even before “going green” became part of our culture's social consciousness! Designated as a green hotel by online environmentally conscious travel community, [iStayGreen](#), The Oaks' green practices better the environment while giving their guests nothing less than a relaxing and unforgettable experience. Plus, since The Oaks is a place of teaching, the staff incorporates its green practices into teaching guests how to live a more balanced, and thus socially responsible, lifestyle.

The Oaks' green practices include:

Energy Efficiency

- Most food served is locally-grown to support environmentally-sustainable farming practices and avoid long-distance shipping
- Any leftover meals are served to staff
- Flash heaters in suites help to conserve gas and water by heating water “on demand” without needing a water tank for the facilities
- The Oaks has replaced nearly 400 light bulbs with low wattage, energy saving twist light bulbs
- Light switches on timers are used throughout the facilities
- A solar panel supplies power to the pool's stereo system for the water aerobics class, saving 300 batteries per year
- Routine air conditioning filter cleaning programs keep air conditioning units running as efficiently as possible
- Air conditioners and heaters are being replaced with Energy Star heat pump units
- Dual paned windows are installed in all renovated rooms to reduce energy costs
- For all renovated rooms and public spaces, extra insulation is added to reduce air conditioning or heating waste

Waste Minimalization

- All paper is recycled and is either used as scratch paper or for copy machines
- Around 10,000 plastic bottles are saved a year by offering in-room amenities upon check in, attached to a card that details how The Oaks does not automatically replace in-room amenities in order to conserve plastic and product waste
- Recyclable plastic cups are used during breakfast and lunch meals. The Oaks does not serve guests bottled waters
- Boxes for packed breakfasts or lunches are made out of recycled material
- All trash from public areas and offices is sorted and recycled
- Materials for the kitchen, housekeeping, salon and treatment rooms are ordered in bulk to reduce wasted packaging and shipping

Water Conservation

- Energy Star laundry machines are used to help save water
- Towels are reused by guests throughout the day to conserve energy and water; guests are even offered a labeled peg to hang their towel during fitness classes to be reused by them for the next class
- Low flow toilets are used in the spa's public spaces and renovated rooms. With each flush, two gallons of water are conserved per toilet, meaning that 80 gallons of water are conserved throughout the property per flush
- Drought-resistant, indigenous landscaping on the grounds utilizes natural irrigation

Donation of Reusable Goods

- Unclaimed lost and found items are donated to local charities, including eyeglasses that are donated to the Lions Club Third World Vision program
- Old ink cartridges are donated to local schools
- Every six months, office equipment and old paint are dropped off at the California recycling center
- Old furniture is donated to local charities including Goodwill, Ojai Community Assistance, Help of Ojai and Ojai Homeless Shelter
- Egg yolks are donated to the Humane Society of Ventura County to mix with dog food. No longer used bedding is also donated to be used in cages

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