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THE CARIBE ROYALE RECEIVES FLORIDA 3 PALM GREEN LODGING PROGRAM DESIGNATION

-Environmentally friendly hotel conserves resources, saves money and attracts customers-

ORLANDO, FL – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to award the 3 Palm *Green Lodging* Program designation to the Caribe Royale – All Suites Hotel and Convention Center. The *Green Lodging* Program initiative provides the lodging industry with free technical assistance, encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving “green” practices that reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

“It is wonderful to see businesses implement green practices such as water conservation, recycling and energy reduction because they are not only good for business, they are good for Florida’s environment,” said DEP Sustainable Initiatives Director Deas Bohn.

To become a designated member of the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, hotels must implement a variety of green practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, water conservation measures through low flow plumbing fixtures, a linen reuse program, and energy efficiency achieved by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and programmable thermostats. The waste reduction criteria are met by providing the opportunity to recycle, purchasing items in bulk, purchasing recycled materials and by recycling ink and toner cartridges. All designated properties must also use green cleaners and high efficiency air filters.

“The entire Caribe Royale team has worked hard to achieve this designation and we are proud to be one of many Florida businesses who are passionate about conservation and waste reduction,” said Gerald Urquiola, General Manager.

Launched in March 2004, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. In 2007 Governor Crist signed three executive orders initiating state energy-use policies, including one that requires state agencies and departments to hold meetings and conferences only at hotels with the Florida *Green Lodging* Program designation as of January 1, 2008, whenever possible. For more information about the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

DEP’s Office of Sustainable Initiatives is comprised of three voluntary, non-regulatory programs that assist Florida industry and citizens in protecting the environment. The *Clean Marina* Program, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program and the Florida Pollution Prevention Program offer a variety of services including on-site assessments, consultations, speakers and workshops, all at no cost to citizens or organizations. The goal of the Sustainable Initiatives programs is to meet the needs of the present population without compromising resources for future generations. To learn more about DEP’s Sustainable Initiatives, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/green/.