



## 5 Hotels Helping Meetings Go Green

Among those partners, a leader is the 379-room [Portola Hotel & Spa](#) in Monterey, Calif. (pictured), which has been LEED Silver-certified since 2011 and remains one of the first and only LEED-certified hotels on the state's central coast. Last month, the hotel upped its green game even further by launching a new reduced-waste conferences program that seeks to shrink the environmental footprint of meetings that take place at Portola by way of minimizing food- and paper-based garbage.

For participating groups, Portola has agreed to promote the program to meeting attendees through its group reservation system; make recommendations for environmentally friendly vendors; source organic and sustainable ingredients from local farmers and vendors; utilize china, glassware and silverware instead of disposable cups and utensils; track diverted waste on a daily basis across its kitchen, housekeeping and banquet departments; compost pre- and post-consumer waste; separate recyclable and compostable materials to keep them from going to the landfill; and provide meeting planners with a post-meeting recap that summarizes their group's waste-reduction achievements.

"Reduced-waste conferences are a great way to communicate to meeting attendees the importance to conserve natural resources," said Portola general manager Janine Chicourrat. "We partner with the meeting planners to implement a variety of green practices, and we are able to communicate to attendees how they can contribute. A great example of this is offering reusable aluminum-can water bottles instead of plastic bottles. We host groups of over 1,000 attendees, so the reduction of plastic water bottles over a three-day event can be in excess of 4,000 bottles."

---

### **Four More Hotels That Embrace Sustainability**

Once upon a time, properties like the Portola Hotel & Spa were rare. These days, however, eco-conscious meeting professionals have many choices for environmentally friendly venues. Here are four more with a dedicated green meetings program: