



COMMONLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 07-126  
Florida Green Lodging Program



**GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 07-126: "Leadership by Example: Immediate Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Florida State Government"**

**BACKGROUND:** Governor Crist signed three Executive Orders in July 2007 at his two-day climate change event in Miami, "*Serve to Preserve: A Florida Summit on Global Climate Change.*" Executive State government will measure greenhouse gas emissions and develop a state government "carbon footprint" baseline. State government then will work to reduce its overall emissions – 10 percent by 2012; 25 percent by 2017; and 40 percent by 2025. To help achieve these goals, State buildings constructed in the future will meet energy-efficient national guidelines and include solar panels whenever possible. Office space leased in the future must be in energy-efficient buildings as well. Any State vehicles purchased should be fuel-efficient and use ethanol and biodiesel fuels when available. Also, State government will seek to partner with an energy-efficient rental car company for the 2009 contract (and DMS did so in Fall 2007 by contracting with Avis, which has a flex-fuel fleet).

**GREEN LODGING PROGRAM – Section 4 of Executive Order 07-126 states:** "*Effective January 1, 2008, state agencies and departments under the direction of the Governor may not contract for meeting and conference space with hotels or conference facilities that have not received the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 'Green Lodging' program designation for best practices in water, energy, and waste efficiency standards, except when certified to the Governor by the responsible agency head that no other viable alternative exists.*"

**HOW WILL STATE AGENCIES COMPLY WITH THE "GREEN LODGING PROGRAM" PROVISION?** This Q&A has been prepared to assist you, and contact information is at the end if you need more information.

**1. Are state employees required to stay at designated properties in the Florida Green Lodging Program for state travel?**

No, the Executive Order language only applies to your contracts for meetings and conference space, not personnel travel and accommodations.

**2. If a contract was executed before January 1, 2008, is the meeting or conference still required to be at a designated property in the Florida Green Lodging Program?**

No, this Executive Order only applies to contracts executed after January 1, 2008.

However, we ask that you make the property you've contracted with aware of the Executive Order and direct its managers to the Florida Green Lodging Program website:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging)

**3. How can I easily see which properties are already in the program and which ones are officially in the process?**

Go to [www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging) for an easy navigational tool – click at “Designated Properties,” which is sorted by regions of the State. Then click under “Hotel Applicants” for a complete list of pending properties.

**4. We would like to have our conference in a particular area of the State, but there are no properties designated in the Florida Green Lodging Program in that area. Is this considered “no other viable alternative”?**

Yes, but the agency needs to demonstrate that there is a compelling reason why the event must be held in this particular area. In addition, we ask that the agency make facilities aware of the Executive Order and the Florida Green Lodging Program website ([www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging)) so they can consider becoming a designated property prior to the event taking place. (Designations vary with the size of the property. Achieving designation can take up to six months but as little as a few weeks, depending on what level of designation the property seeks and what it is doing already to be energy or water efficient, etc.)

**5. The room rates for all the designated properties in the Florida Green Lodging Program in the area we need to have our conference are expensive and “price us out of the market.” Can this be considered “no other viable alternative”?**

Yes, but the agency will need to demonstrate that there are no other designated properties in the Florida Green Lodging Program in the area that would meet the requirements for the event, and a compelling reason why the event must be held in this particular area. Also, we ask that the agency make the facility aware of the Executive Order and direct its managers to the Florida Green Lodging Program website [www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging) so they can consider becoming a designated property prior to the event taking place.

**6. We would like to contract with a property that is a Florida Green Lodging Program applicant, but they are not yet a designated property. Can we utilize this facility?**

No, since the Executive Order clearly states that the agency or department may not contract for meetings and conference space with hotels or conference facilities that have not received the designation. However, if the facility has had its assessment completed, and the status is pending, a contract can be established. The web site (see # 3) has a “pending” list, and the DEP Florida Green Lodging Program contacts (below) can provide the status of any given facility upon request as well.

**7. We are part of a state organization not directly under the direction of the Governor, but we receive funding from an agency that does report to the Governor. Do we need to comply with the Executive Order?**

No, but the Governor strongly encourages all of State government to utilize a designated property in the Florida Green Lodging Program where possible. We ask that you make the facility’s leaders aware of the Executive Order and direct them to the Florida Green

Lodging Program website [www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging) so they may consider becoming a designated property prior to the event taking place.

**8. What is the process for certifying to the Governor that “no other viable alternative exists”?**

The determination that no other viable alternative exists should be sent by each agency head’s office through an e-mail to the contact below. Please place “GREEN LODGING” and the agency name in the subject line.

Attn: Brenda Henry, Fiscal Assistant  
Executive Office of the Governor  
Brenda.Henry@eog.myflorida.com  
Phone: (850) 488-4505

The e-mail should cover the following:

1. The name and location of the facility selected.
2. The date and title of the event.
3. The name and location of designated properties in the Florida Green Lodging Program that were considered, and why they were not used.
4. Why a particular area of the state was selected.
5. Confirming that the facility used was made aware of the Executive Order and directed to the Florida Green Lodging Program website.

**9. What else can I do to support this effort?**

You could easily – as both a State employee traveling on business, or as a private individual – provide feedback to DEP through an e-mail form that helps us ensure that properties in this program are practicing efficient measures. To provide feedback, please visit: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging/comment/default.htm>.

**Please contact DEP at any time for additional questions or information:**

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