



*Habitat Protection ■ Waste Reduction ■ Recycling ■ Sustainability*

## *Resort Environmental Policy*

At Kiawah Island Golf Resort we believe sustainable initiatives are vital to our guests and employees. Sustainability has been at the core of the resort's mission since it was established. As a sustainable hospitality destination, we strive to provide an unparalleled experience today while protecting the resources that ensure an even better experience for guests in the future.

### *Habitat and our Natural Environment*

#### **Environmental Education**

Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Nature Program employs a staff of Naturalists dedicated to educating island guests, residents, as well as employees about Kiawah's plants, wildlife, ecology and our conservation efforts. The Nature Program uses the Islands habitats as outdoor classrooms to create experiences that will provide a better understanding of how the natural world works, and its importance to our day-to-day life. The Nature Center at Night Heron Park is a first stop to learn about all our educational opportunities.

#### **Native Vegetation**

Native vegetation is utilized throughout the resort as well as eradication of Invasive species by the landscaping department. Native vegetation is essential for food and shelter for island wildlife, both transient and permanent. The eradication of invasive species is vital in keeping native species abundant and healthy.

#### **Native Wildlife**

Native wildlife is protected and monitored by Town of Kiawah Biologist, Kiawah Island Golf Resort Naturalist, and Town of Kiawah Sea Turtle Patrol. Mammals such as Bobcats and Coyotes are monitored through GPS tracking. Resident and Migratory birds are caught, recorded and banded several times a year. The Endangered Loggerhead sea turtle is monitored by the Sea turtle patrol every nesting season.

#### **The Sanctuary Re-Planting Project**

During the construction (2003-04) of The Sanctuary crews removed, tended to, and re-planted 170 live oaks and around 200 Cabbage Palmettos on the grounds. The Landscaping department continues to maintain these beautiful trees by pruning, dead wooding, and root collar excavation.

## **Night Heron Park KI Marathon Butterfly Garden**

The courage and determination of our marathon runners is a constant source of inspiration, which is worthy of a vibrant tribute. As a sustainability-focused race, we have chosen to design and plant a butterfly garden in honor of our 2009 Kiawah Island Marathon winners. In addition to recognizing our champions, the garden also gives back to nature by providing new habitat and food for a wide variety of creatures. Each year the Landscaping Department plants beautiful native vegetation to attract our amazing diverse species of Butterfly and Insects.

## **Naturally Kiawah Demonstration Garden**

Planted in 2013; located in Night Heron Park. This garden is a joint project with Kiawah Island Golf Resort and the Kiawah Conservancy. It showcases native plants and plants that respond well to the diverse conditions of Kiawah Island's environs and will be maintained by KIGR and used as a learning opportunity for property owners and guests alike.

## **Kiawah Conservancy**

The Kiawah Conservancy is a non-profit, Section 501(c)(3), grassroots organization that was established by Island residents in 1997, to preserve the natural habitat of Kiawah Island. The Kiawah Island Golf Resort supports the Conservancy's efforts, and through our guest donation program the Conservancy has been able to preserve land and fund vital groundbreaking research.

# *Resource Conservation*

## **Water Conservation**

All treated effluent from our wastewater treatment plant is used for golf course irrigation. The Ocean and Osprey Point courses have equipment to filter brackish water from the pond system to supplement the municipal supply. The Sanctuary uses a combination of drip-style irrigation and nighttime watering to reduce evaporation. Guests staying in the Sanctuary can assist with our water conservation efforts by noting that they would like to reuse their bed linens in the "Green Sheets" program.

## **Water Bottle Refill Stations**

The Recreation Department provides water bottle refill stations throughout their facilities including Heron Park Nature Center, Straw Market Fitness Room and Mingo Point Tours. As guests enjoy and explore the island they are free to refill at any of these locations.

## **Energy Conservation**

Meeting rooms and ballrooms in The Sanctuary are programmed so that all lights are turned off automatically every day when room is not in use. Cooling tower drive motors, circulating pumps, and chillers utilize variable frequency drives to use only the electricity needed to meet demand. All lighting in guest corridors, are outfitted with 3.5 watt LED bulbs (over 500 bulbs). This saves a little over 100,000 kwh/year.

# *Golf*

## **Cougar Golf Course**

Currently Cougar golf course offers recycling for all paper, plastics #1 – 7, glass, aluminum and tin products on the golf course. Recyclables can be placed in designated receptacles placed around the tea boxes.

# *Food and Beverage*

## **Sustainable Seafood Initiative**

Inspired by the Sustainable Seafood Initiative, the Chefs of Kiawah have focused their energy and efforts on developing lasting relationship with local seafood farmers, purveyors and fishermen, in order to deliver a culinary experience that speaks directly to the unique and diverse seafood available state wide. Utilizing the SSI as a foundation for growth, Kiawah Chefs focus on serving fresh fish and seafood that is caught or farmed with consideration for the long-term viability of individual marine species and for the oceans' ecological balance as a whole. The Atlantic Room, our seafood inspired Restaurant, is a Platinum Partner with the Sustainable Seafood Initiative the highest designation that is awarded. In August 2011, a benefit dinner was hosted at the Atlantic Room, where sustainable seafood options were featured and a portion of proceeds went to the SSI.

## **Supporting Local Farms**

In an effort to support local families and farmers Kiawah Chefs have branched out from traditional means of purchasing produce and products. Chefs have started developing personal relationships with these individuals; some of these farmers grow only Heirloom produce. Our chefs are in turn able to deliver a completely unique dining experience. Jasmine Porch, has led the charge with this initiative purchasing a variety of seasonal ingredients from local farms including strawberries, spicy arugula, heirloom squash, potatoes, stoneground grits, honey, onions, peaches, purple asparagus. Through supporting our local farmers we are supporting the local economy, reducing pollution emissions from transportation, and providing our guests with fresher and more flavorful produce. We also feel that we are helping to support our unique sense of place that residents and guests know and love.

## **Oyster Shell Recycling**

Our Resort participates in The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' (SCDNR) statewide oyster shell recycling program, known as, South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement (SCORE). Hundreds of cases of oysters are consumed on Kiawah, mostly at the summer public oyster roasts. Since we began this program in 2008, 100,497 pounds of shells have been picked up by DNR staff. In 2013 we recycled 7,100lbs of oysters which equates to 130 bushels. By recycling these oyster shells, we are helping to restore or enhance South Carolina oyster habitat, reduce material destined for our landfill, and assist with coastal erosion control.

# *Guest Rooms*

**The Sanctuary:** In-room recycling for all paper, plastics #1 – 7, glass, aluminum and tin products

**Villas:** Kiawah offers recycling pick up to the following Villas: Duneside, Sparrowpond Cottages, Night Heron Cottages, and Inlet Cove!

Although villa pick-up service is currently not available island-wide, we are pleased to offer guests the opportunity to help us on an individual scale. Clean and sorted recyclables can be brought to the stations at the Nature Center in Night Heron Parking lot, Kiawah Town Hall, and Kestrel Court Rd. off of Sora Rail Rd.

The following is a list of materials guests can recycle through our drop off service at Night Heron:

Plastics containers (#1 through #7)

Glass containers

Aluminum and tin cans

Newspapers, brochures and magazines

Paperboard (i.e. cereal boxes, tissue boxes)

Cardboard

Accepted inside the Nature Center:

Alkaline and rechargeable batteries

Plastic shopping bags for re-use by retail

Monofilament fishing line

Corks

crayons

books (lending library, kids camp or donation)

e-waste

light bulbs (all types)

**Houses:** Single Stream curbside pick-up

**Soap Bars:** Housekeeping staff has been collecting soap from guestrooms since 2011. Once at 400 lbs. of soap, it can be sent to the main plant of "Global Soap Project" where it is repurposed and sent to vulnerable communities, typically in third world countries where basic sanitation needs are regularly not met. This project not only diverts soap from entering the landfill, but helps save lives in some of the most vulnerable areas in the world.

## *Back of the House Environmental Initiatives*

### **Employee Recycling Program**

Since 1993, the Kiawah Island Golf Resort has been recycling office paper and commingled (glass, plastic/cans) recyclables in our offices and facilities.

The following is a list of materials, which the Kiawah Island Golf Resort has a plan in place to reuse or recycle:

Alkaline and rechargeable batteries

Aluminum and tin cans

Bubble wrap

Cardboard

Cell phones

Corks

Electronic waste

Light Bulbs (all types)

Glass containers

Monofilament fishing line

Newspapers, brochures and magazines

Oyster shells

Paint cans

Pallets

Paperboard (i.e. cereal boxes, tissue boxes)

Plastic shopping bags

Plastics containers (#1 through #7)

Printer cartridges

Styrofoam packing peanuts

Tires

Vehicle Fluids

### **Tires**

Damaged or worn automobile, golf cart, and bike tires are collected and stored for a large-scale pick up. These items are then hauled away to a rubber recycling facility.

### **Universal Waste**

Fluorescent tubes, ballasts, and batteries contain a whole host of hazardous chemicals and compounds from mercury to DEHPs to heavy metals. Since June of 2008 1733 lbs of fluorescent tubes, 1,000 lbs batteries, and 500 lbs of ballasts have been properly recycled. Separately, Batteries Plus has accepted 436 lbs. of batteries.

## **Composting**

Since the spring of 2012, the Night Heron Park, the Sanctuary, Ocean Course Clubhouse, Turtle Point Clubhouse, Tomassos and Osprey Point Clubhouse have integrated composting into their operations. This addition has been impressively successful and we are on track to lead the Southeast in the amount of compostable material diverted from the landfill, a feat that is made possible by the new and local commercial composting company, *Food Waste Disposal (FWD)*. As of 2014 we have contributed to 4 million lbs of food waste collected by FWD. As a resort we collected 102,634 lbs of compost in 2013 ultimately diverting that waste to the landfill.

## **E-waste recycling**

The Kiawah Island Golf Resort conducts bi-annual e-waste recycling drives; collecting items such as computers, printers, televisions, VCRs and cell phone from resort offices, island residents and neighboring businesses. In the spring of 2013, a total of 2,487 lbs. of electronic waste was collected and properly Recycled by B&D Scrap Recycling located locally in North Charleston S.C.

## **Packaging Material**

The local shipping store, "Post & Ship", located in Freshfields Village is pleased to accept our excess Styrofoam packaging peanuts and bubble wrap. The process of transforming a product from obsolete in one life cycle and into another life cycle uses very limited energy and resources.

## **Pallet Re-use Program**

Departments including Laundry, Warehouse, Facilities Maintenance, Golf and Sanctuary Engineering collect and store pallets, on a quarterly basis *Eddie Scott Pallets* hauls away between 250-300 pallets, over 5000 lbs. that are rebuilt and re-circulated into the shipping industry. Over 2,100 pallets were recycled in 2013.

## **Cork Recycling**

The Lobby Bar, and in the near future, all F+B locations in The Sanctuary collect natural and synthetic corks from wine bottles for donation to the South Carolina Aquarium. In the spring of 2013, approximately 50 gallons were taken to the S.C. Aquarium.

## **Cell phone and Printer Cartridge**

Unused cell phones and empty printer cartridges are collected at the Heron Park Nature Center and recycled through Staples.

## **Carpet**

Our carpet is recycled through the service of Southeastern Plastics Recovery, one of 35 locations in the U.S. certified to recycle such material.

## *Miscellaneous*

## **Bikes for Honduras**

Old bikes from the recreation department that cannot be used anymore are collected and donated to *Gildan* and *Bikes of the World*. These bikes are then given to communities in developing countries for transportation. In 2013 the KIGR Bikes department donated 30 bikes to be fixed up and donated to the people of Honduras.

## **Bring your Own Bag**

The Kiawah Island Recreation department is encouraging Green Bagging Options when shopping at our outlets. Guests can choose to shop with their own reusable bag, re-use a plastic disposable bag or simply don't take a bag.

## **Shopping**

Located inside the Heron Park Nature Center, the Nature Shop is committed to providing the opportunity to support locally made, organic or earth and human friendly products that reflect our goal as an educational and conservation oriented resort.

## **Saline Pools**

Eleven pools managed by KIGR are cleansed with saline systems reducing the exposure to employees and potentially guest to "conventional chlorine" systems.

## **Steel Mill Slag Gravel**

The gravel in the KIGR parking lots along Sora Rail Rd., bordering Villa Maintenance and the Bike Warehouse facilities, is a by-product of the steel industry, known as "slag".

## **Beach / Roadside Clean Ups**

For more than 15 years Resort employees have been organizing and partaking in the annual South Carolina Beach Sweep/River Sweeps. Data collected from our local clean up day is compiled with international data by the Ocean Conservancy (<http://www.oceanconservancy.org>). In 2007, Kiawah Island Golf Resort "adopted" the 4.5 mile stretch of Bohicket Road leading up to Kiawah Island. In a partnership with South Carolina's Adopt-A-Highway program, Resort employees volunteer their time to keep our roadways beautiful by removing more than 500 lbs of litter each quarter!

## **Material Donation**

In 2009 the Low country Food bank was the recipient of approximately 390 lbs. of outdated linens and 65 plastic patio chairs. Sea Island Habitat for Humanity assisted with the removal of 9 cabinets, 5 countertops, and 6 decorative garbage cans from KIGR storage, items that could have gone to the landfill. In 2013 the Senior Center Located in Downtown Charleston received over 2,000 lbs of nonperishable food items that were donated by runners from the Kiawah Island Marathon. When our linens and towels reach the point in which they can no longer be used, a small stock is saved for animal care, performed by our naturalists.

## **Recycled Content Purchasing**

In 2008 Night Heron Park upgraded its solid waste receptacles to include recycling and recycled content. The "lumber" of the new bins are manufactured from 95% post consumer plastics, the fiberglass lids contain around 25% recycled glass, and the stations were made in Virginia. Sanitary paper products located in most restrooms around the Resort are stocked with SCA products that contain recycled paper content. For example the toilet tissue, as well as the paper towels within the Night Heron Park Nature Center, are made from 100% pre-consumer recycled fiber content. In spring of 2010 bathroom partitions made from 100% post-consumer HDPE were installed in the adult pool next to Roy Barth Tennis Center. In 2014 Birdfeeders made out of recycled plastics were purchased for use around Night Heron Park for a more eco-friendly way to give back to our local birds.

## **Special Events**

These events include holiday celebrations, festivals, and our annual marathon where many people gather at one time and come into contact with many one-time use products. We see this as an opportunity to control the end result of such products and have an ultimate goal of reducing landfill waste through making clear and conveniently placed receptacles available to guests, which include compost, recycling, and garbage. At our 2013 Kiawah Marathon attracting approximately 5,000 people, about 1,350 lbs of food waste was composted.

## *Awards and Recognition*

### **The 2010 Menzie Environmental Education Award from the Society of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry**

SETAC has recognized KIGR Nature Program for making a significant contribution to environmental education through educating guests, communities, and employees. The Nature Program provides Environmental Education through nature tours such as walking, boating, and biking tours. The Nature Program also educates local and out of state school groups about the beautiful and diverse ecosystems on the Kiawah Island.

### **Audubon International**

Audubon International has recognized KIGR for: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation water quality management, Outreach and education. The Audubon Society has certified all five of the Resort's golf courses and the grounds of The Sanctuary as certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

### **National Wildlife Federation**

NWF has designated Kiawah Island as a Community Wildlife Habitat. Kiawah Island is now one of only three certified habitats in South Carolina and only 29 in the country. The Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA) spearheaded this effort in conjunction with the Kiawah Island Garden Club, the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy, the Kiawah Island Naturalist Group, the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, the Town of Kiawah Island Environmental Committee, the Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

### **Green Golf Award**

Our long-term commitment to preserving the environment has been hugely successful to the point that *GOLF Magazine* has named us as one of their "Green Award Resorts," calling Kiawah Island Golf Resort one of the "leaders in environmental stewardship." We were one of ten properties they said, "placed a serious emphasis on resource conservation and protection."

### **Golf, Inc. Green Golf Award**

Kiawah Island Golf Resort has been named one of the world's most environmentally sensitive golf resorts by Golf Inc. magazine in its September 2008 issue, winning its inaugural "Green Award."

### **Runner's World Green Team**

Each December, the Kiawah Island Golf Resort hosts a USATF sanctioned full and half marathon event. As a result of our green initiatives and commitment to environmental stewardship Runner's World Magazine has designated the Kiawah Island Marathon as an Official Green Team member.

## **Preferred Hotels and Resorts Certificate of Excellence**

The Sanctuary hotel is listed as an eco-friendly hotel through the Great Initiatives For Today's (Tomorrow's) Society (GIFTTS) for the 2008-09 season (<http://www.phggiftts.com/main.asp?pg=1>).

## **2009/2010 Golf Digest "Green Star Award"**

The goal of the Green Star Awards is to identify a small number of the most outstanding environmental leaders in golf. In this inaugural ranking, we focused on resorts because they are the facilities that have the hardest challenge: They are most in the public eye, their customers are increasingly asking questions about environmental commitment, and they are where we expected to find the best ideas and the most innovation -- things that ideally every golf facility can emulate.

## **2009 Outstanding Business/Industry Recycling Program Award from the Carolina Recycling Association (CRA)**

### **2009 S.C. Smart Business Recycling Program Award.**

KIGR received honors for the outstanding waste reduction and recycling programs at the first S.C. SBRP, which is a partnership between DHEC and the S.C. Department of Commerce.

### **2009 Best Large Business Recycling Program**

KIGR received honors for the outstanding waste reduction and recycling programs from the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council.

### **2009-2012 Two Palmetto Facility**

The S.C. Green Hospitality Alliance awarded this certification to KIGR for "green practices that protect and preserve South Carolina's environment."

### **2010 Spotlight Award**

The CRA has recognized the 2009 Kiawah Island Golf Resort marathon for its waste reduction and recycling efforts. For example: runners that crossed the finish line were given medals made from 100% recycled glass instead of the typical metal medals; and 1149 pounds of compost were collected from EBCC, Sanctuary, Town Center Market, as well as the race course finish line.

### **2010 Bill Evans & Carol Bond Memorial Award for Outstanding Toxicity Reduction (CRA)**

This award, given by the CRA, is in specific recognition of our initiative to recycle batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, electronic ballasts, as well as e-waste. As of August 2010 KIGR has recycled 1,733 pounds of fluorescent tubes and bulbs, 303 pounds of ballasts, and 262 pounds of batteries.

### **2011 Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling Program award by the S.C. Smart Business Recycling Program.**

This award was given to The Sanctuary hotel for exceptional waste reduction through composting.