

BEP REPORTER

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Embassy Suites Reaps Energy Savings for Green Lodging

One of the more notable success stories in hospitality is the work that David Hansen is doing at Embassy Suites South Lake Tahoe. The hotel and ski resort is located on the south shore of the lake adjacent to world class, year around beauty, recreation and entertainment.

David is Director of Engineering and is well known within the Embassy Suites Hotels family for his extensive knowledge and experience with developing eco-friendly engineering and design practices that reduce energy waste and save thousands of dollars in energy costs.

In January 2009, right about the time Lake Tahoe and the nation was feeling the pinch of the recession, David convinced his management to invest \$200,000 in energy efficient improvements and promised they would receive a return on investment in two years. The projects included initiatives such as LED lighting installations, a web-based energy management system, an ozone laundry system, and increased composting and

recycling,. The results have been stellar; it took only seven months to break even and the total energy savings for 2009 was \$401,000. Electricity usage has been cut by 30 percent and fuel usage by 50 percent.

David participated in a Western Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Network (WSPPN) webinar in February: "Successes and Challenges in Greening Hotel Chains." The hospitality industry utilizes vast amounts of resources including materials, energy, and water. The webinar was a case study on how enterprising individuals can move their hotels to go green; not only to reduce the environmental footprint but also to have a hugely positive impact on the hotel's bottom line. [Link for recorded webinar / presentation.](#)

Contact BEP to join our hospitality work groups to learn from your peers what they are doing to reduce wastes and reduce energy use and to get tips. Las Vegas contact Roland Fornoff at fornoff@unr.edu or Reno contact John G Handzo at jhandzo@unr.edu.



**The Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe
washes approximately 120,000
pounds of laundry per month**



Business Environmental Program
College of Business
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