



Sustainability at The Ranch

The Ranch at Laguna Beach



OUR PURPOSE

- Take sustainability to the next level and transform the way we travel.
- Demonstrate sustainable tourism leadership through actions and impact that also provide a great guest experience.

OUR PILLARS

- Innovative solutions to make our resort environmentally-friendly.
- Protection of the land and sea, and all its inhabitants
- Contributions to the well-being of our Laguna Beach communities and non-profit organizations

OUR VALUES

- Nature: We treasure and protect nature, its wildlife, and landscapes.
- Community: We respect those with whom we share our land and community.
- Culture: We value cultural diversity, origins, and traditions.

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

BEYOND GREEN

The Ranch at Laguna Beach is a proud member of Beyond Green: a global portfolio of hotel, resorts and lodges leading the way in sustainable tourism. As a member, we are held to global standards of sustainability in tourism and in-tune with the United Nations sustainable development goals. It's more than your average 'reduce, reuse, recycle' philosophy— We are evaluated on 54 sustainability indicators to ensure our property is aligned with the Beyond Green mission: Using travel as a force for good.

The Result:

We help set the standard and lead the way for more hospitality companies around the world to make our planet their priority!



RECLAIMED WATER PROGRAM

87 acres of land, all 100% irrigated with reclaimed water through our partnership with the local water district. We're keeping the golf course green in the greenest way possible!

The Result:

20 million gallons of potable water saved each year.

BOTTLES TO BUNKERS

Are you finished with your glass bottle? We'll take care of it. And by that, we mean we'll take it to our on-site glass bottle crusher and turn it into sand. Then, we'll take that sand and use it fill bunkers on the golf course, repair our pavement and filter the pool. It's a win for us and a win for the planet!

The Result:

70 U.S. tons of sand is created each year, reducing our waste volume by 90% and cutting our carbon footprint by getting rid of the need to transport and process glass waste.

LED FIXTURES

Every light fixture at The Ranch is LED, which reduces heat that would be generated by traditional incandescent lights.

The Result:

Lower heat generated = Lower need for HVAC and heat leakage issues with surrounding areas.

HARVEST GARDEN

Harvest Garden is our ½ acre, bio-dynamic farm that provides produce for Harvest Restaurant, and acts as a beautiful spot to host small group gatherings, receptions and events. The garden is overseen with love by Farmer Leo who welcomes guests for farm tours.

The Result:

Provides a large percentage of produce for our restaurant's seasonal menus, greatly reducing transportation-based produce delivery.

ON-SITE COMPOSTING

Harvest Garden utilizes all of the wet-food waste (except proteins) and paper waste from our property in a 4-6 month composting process.

The Result:

20,000 pounds of food waste is eliminated yearly from entering landfills, while also reducing harmful methane emissions. This labor of love results in nutrient-rich soil that produces healthy foods, cools our planet, cleans our air and supports plants, animals and the earth's atmosphere. Additionally, non-compostable food waste from our kitchen is used in livestock food, eliminating the process for growing, packaging and delivering processed chicken feed.

ROOM KEYS

The only thing that lasts longer than plastic is memories! That's why we've swapped out plastic room keys for wooden and bamboo keys that can be returned after your stay OR kept as a souvenir. And if a key is lost in the trash (it happens), it's biodegradable and will end up in the compost.

The Result:

An estimated 25,000 LESS plastic keys will make their way into a landfill.

OC TREE COLLECTIVE

We offer our guests the opportunity to add a 'tree fee' to their room charge that will pay for a tree to be planted here at The Ranch, or with our partner at The Ecology Center. Each tree planted equals about a ton of carbon that will be eliminated from the atmosphere over the tree's lifetime. The impact and legacy of simply planting a tree is the definition of leaving a place better than you found it!

The Result:

Starting in 2022, we anticipate this program will result in thousands of pounds of carbon being eliminated from our atmosphere.

OCEAN FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

A Surfrider Project

Harvest is Laguna Beach's first 'Ocean Friendly Restaurant', certified by Surfrider Foundation. This means we make sustainable choices for the good of the ocean, such as eliminating the use of Styrofoam and plastic, providing only reusable tableware, and following proper recycling practices daily.

The Result:

Continued progress toward having a truly 'zero-waste' restaurant cycle.

HOOK TO HARVEST

Harvest takes pride in using local and sustainable sources to create their seasonal menus. Each partner shares our passion, values and concern for high-quality, responsible foods. When it comes to seafood, we partner with local fishermen from Dana Point and Newport Beach to serve the freshest seafood caught in local waters. We also do not serve salmon caught out of season or raised on fish farms. All seafood on our menu is on the James Beard Sustainable Seafood Standards list— So it's delicious and responsibly-sourced!

The Result:

We help reduce the impact on our local fisheries, while also supporting local fishermen and their families.

ADOPT A CHANNEL

The Ranch at Laguna Beach works with volunteers to maintain a 0.75-mile stretch of the Aliso Creek Channel in Mission Viejo. Since December 2015, we have removed over 2,500 pounds of trash and natural debris from the channel. Thanks to these continued efforts, we're preventing this material to make its way to the Pacific Ocean.

The Result:

Continuing to remove thousands of pounds of trash to create a healthier streamline ecosystem and keep our oceans clean.

IN ROOM COFFEE

Our Steeped Coffee program provides a cup of exceptional, fair-trade coffee for guests in 100% compostable packaging (which goes straight to our farm!). It's the best way to start your day and do your part to help the environment!

The Result:

Elimination of over 10,000 non-home compostable coffee waste containers per year.

EVENTS

All events at The Ranch follow the Sustainable Events Standards from the Events Industry Council. These standards mean we take action towards preserving our natural environment; promote a healthy, inclusive society; and support a thriving economy for our local communities. You could say we're the host with the most care for our planet!

Four Principles of Event Sustainability

1. Event organizers and suppliers share responsibility for implementing and communicating sustainable practices to their stakeholders.
2. Basic environmental practices include:
 - Conservation of resources, including water, energy, and natural resources
 - Waste management
 - Carbon emissions reduction and management
 - Supply chain management and responsible purchasing
 - Biodiversity preservation
3. Basic social considerations include:
 - Universal human rights
 - Community impacts
 - Labor practices
 - Respect for culture
 - Safety and security
 - Health and well-being
4. Sustainable events support thriving economic practices through:
 - Collaboration and partnerships
 - Local support, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
 - Stakeholder participation
 - Equitable economic impact
 - Transparency
 - Responsible governance

The Results:

Meetings and events at The Ranch provide better support for our local community and environment!

ALUMINUM CUPS

The Ranch at Laguna Beach is currently phasing out compostable cups for a more environmentally-friendly aluminum cup. Not only are these cups reusable, they are also infinitely recyclable!

The Results:

We estimate that these reusable and recyclable aluminum cups will replace over 100,000 compostable cups every year.

IN ROOM AMENITIES

We have replaced all single-use guest bathroom amenities with luxurious, dispensable products from MALIN+GOETZ. This company uses trusted, natural ingredients and advanced technology to create simple, luxury skincare—never tested on animals and made in the USA. (And, it smells really good!)

The Results:

Elimination of over 20,000 single-use plastic containers being sent to the landfill (where they were likely not recycled).

LOW LIGHT - DARK SKIES

Our property, while in a semi-urban location, strives to reduce our light pollution by using the bare minimum of exterior lighting with low lux fixtures.

The Results:

While we're in a semi-urban location, we strive to reduce our light pollution by using the bare minimum of exterior lighting with low lux fixtures. We call it ambiance. Less impact on night creatures who thrive in the dark, and a clearer view of our amazing night sky.

ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Plastic Bottles, Straws Laundry and more

Eliminating all single-use plastic beverage containers took some creativity and support from our suppliers, but the impact to the earth is profound. Plastic laundry bags have been removed from all rooms and guest dry cleaning is delivered without plastic covers. We've also eliminated plastic straws, but provide eco-friendly straws upon request.

The Results:

Elimination of hundreds of thousands of plastic beverage containers and straws from entering the waste stream. Elimination of thousands of plastic laundry bags per year.

PLANT BASED UTENSILS

The Ranch at Laguna Beach has recently partnered with Alder-Tek and PlantSwitch to provide out food and beverage outlets with both wooden and agave utensils. Both of these types of cutlery easily biodegrade without the use of an industrial composting facility.

CLEAN THE WORLD

Housekeeping at The Ranch partners with Clean the World to collect and recycle soap and hygiene products discarded everyday by the hospitality industry. After each soap pump is used and emptied it is donated to this organization to go through a vigorous sanitation process to be redistributed to impoverished people and villages around the world. These products legitimately can prevent millions of hygiene-related deaths each year and reduce morbidity rate for related illnesses, all while also reducing our carbon footprint.



Clean the World™