

## Continued Improvement in Green Lodging Certification

Location: **Palm Desert, California**  
Type of property: **1276 Room Hotel**  
Type of membership: **Green Lodging**  
Member since: **2010**  
Certified since: **2011**

In 2011, Marriott Vacation Club committed to enroll all of its properties in Audubon International's Green Lodging Program. The Marriott Desert Springs Villas was ahead of the curve, joining in 2010 and becoming certified in 2011. The tenacity of the "green team" at this property continues as they expand their environmental management practices and perform better with each recertification they tackle.

Director of Engineering, Glenn Knorr, is committed to continually implementing practices to raise the bar for other Marriott Vacation Club properties.

This property originally earned a Silver Certification Rating in 2010. The rating scale goes from Bronze to Platinum and a property's rating is determined by the percentage of recommended

standards they meet. Their compliance is determined through an initial survey and site visit by Audubon International staff.

At their 2014 recertification site visit, the property earned a Gold Certification because of improvements they had made over their first few years as a member of the Green Lodging Program. These improvements included:

- Creating a prominent display illustrating their environmental initiatives for guests
- Enhancing their "Green Team" with regularly scheduled meetings
- Making changes to landscaping to reflect the native desert environment including reducing grass and replacing it with stone and adding cacti and indigenous plants
- Installing solar heating on all pools
- Installing 98% efficiency-rated hot water heaters and high efficiency air conditioning units
- Creating passive exercise stations throughout their walking trails with informational signage
- Installing 38 charging stations for electric vehicles
- Conducting water and energy assessments



Audubon International applauds the staff at Marriott's Desert Spring Villas for their continued improvement and is hopeful they'll reach Platinum Certification in 2021! This is an excellent example of how the Green Lodging Program can grow within a lodging business and inspire others to meet the high standards.