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## [Motel 6, Sofitel hotel chains joins green race, will test green rating program in USA this year](#)

The parent of giant budget chain [Motel 6](#) and upscale Sofitel will test a voluntary green rating program in some of its U.S. hotels this year.

- DISCUSS: [Has your hotel switched chains on you?](#)
- FREE INTERNET? [Marriott, Hilton give it away - to some](#)
- LANDMARK HOTEL: [Is the Plaza still a landmark?](#)

There are many green rating programs out there trying to sign up hotels, but [Accor](#) North America is trying Green Key Eco-Rating's program, according to a company statement. Accor's Dallas, Texas-based unit plans to test the service with 20 of its 1,000 hotels, most of which are Motel 6s. (Accor also operates the Sofitel, Studio 6, Ibis and Novotel brands in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.)

In the future, Accor North America execs will evaluate the program before deciding whether to roll it out more broadly in US hotels.

The program was developed in 1997 for the Hotel Association of Canada by a leading environmental engineering firm with funding from the Canadian Government. It now has some 1,200 member hotels, including 21 Accor properties in Canada. The program entered the U.S. hotel market last September, according to Accor's press release.

### **Which other hotels and chains use Green Key?**

I couldn't find an obvious link to a hotel client list, so instead I had to click on Green Key's [U.S. map](#) and click one state a time to find out which U.S. hotels have signed up so far. The state listings showed one hotel in Oregon ([Hilton Portland](#)); one in Colorado (Box Canyon Lodge in Ouray); four in California (all Fairmont hotels - two in San Francisco and one each in San Jose and Newport Beach); none in Texas, and two in New York (the Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort in Lake Placid and the Grand Hyatt in Manhattan).

What does it take to get a Green Key rating? Hotels must answer an audit that contains 150 questions about various aspects of operations and sustainable practices, and go through an on-site visit from a Green Key inspector.

Other green efforts: [Marriott](#), [Kimpton](#),

**Readers:** What can hotels do in the green department to catch your attention?