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**Doubletree Hotel Oak Ridge is First Certified “Green” Hotel in Knoxville Area**

**Oak Ridge, Tenn., October 28, 2010** – The Tennessee Hospitality Association has awarded the Doubletree Hotel Oak Ridge with its Tennessee Green Hospitality certificate for the hotel’s conservation efforts. The association encourages lodging facilities statewide to become aware of their impact on the environment and take steps to reduce their carbon footprint while increasing their sustainability. The Doubletree Hotel is the only member hotel in the Knoxville Tourism Alliance to be certified.

Currently there are 20 certified Tennessee Green Hospitality hotels statewide, including three Doubletree Hotels. To qualify for the certification, hotels must meet rigid guidelines and undergo an audit by an independent environmental consulting company.

“The Doubletree Hotel is thrilled to be the first hotel in Oak Ridge to be certified,” said general manager Gretchen Julius, “we hope to inspire the many other hotels here, and statewide, to participate in the important Tennessee Green Hospitality program.”

For certification, hotels must have programs in place for recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation and waste reductions. Conserving energy includes utilizing high efficiency light bulbs, photo sensors and motion detectors. Equipment and computers must be EnergyStar rated. There must be efficient heating and cooling, an optional linen program for guests, a “green events” program, and a plan for continued improvement.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development is also leading an effort to have hotels throughout the state become part of its Sustainable Tourism Initiative. The department has partnered with the Tennessee Hospitality Association in bringing attention to the need for a sustainable tourism industry.

Located at 215 S. Illinois Ave., the Doubletree Hotel has 167 guest rooms, 3,592 square feet of banquet and meeting space and Burchfield’s restaurant. It is adjacent to Oak Ridge Associated Universities and convenient to all government facilities, corporations and technological and industrial parks. For more information on the Doubletree Hotel call 865-481-2468 or visit [doubletreeoakridge.com](http://doubletreeoakridge.com).

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