

# LEAVE NO TRACE ASSESSMENT

*hospitality*

Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Staff</b>	No staff have received Leave No Trace training	At least one full-time staff member has completed a Leave No Trace workshop (Online 101 course, Effective Communication, etc.)	At least 20% of full time staff have completed Leave No Trace training at any level	At least 40% of full time staff have completed Leave No Trace training at any level	At least 60% of full time staff have completed Leave No Trace training at any level or 1 full time staff member is a certified Level 1 or 2 Instructor
<b>Training Opportunities</b>	No Leave No Trace training is offered to staff	Property encourages staff to take the 101 Course or other Leave No Trace workshop	Property facilitates or makes available Leave No Trace training for staff onboarding	Property facilitates or makes available Leave No Trace training for staff annually	Property facilitates or makes available Leave No Trace training for staff during onboarding and annually
<b>Operations &amp; Policies</b>	No internal policies, procedures, or formal guidance related to Leave No Trace.	Basic sustainability practices are included in operations, but no specific reference to Leave No Trace in policies or procedures.	Leave No Trace is included in some policies or procedures, but guidance is general and not tailored to the local environment.	Policies and procedures include Leave No Trace practices that are tailored to the local environment and are sometimes implemented.	Policies and procedures include Leave No Trace practices that are tailored to the local environment and are consistently implemented across operations.
<b>Pre-Trip Information</b>	No pre-trip messaging related to Leave No Trace	Minimum impact (not Leave No Trace) information included in pre-trip materials	Pre-trip materials sometimes includes Leave No Trace information, but it is not locally tailored	Pre-trip materials sometimes includes Leave No Trace information that is locally tailored	Pre-trip materials consistently include Leave No Trace information that is locally tailored
<b>On-Site Messaging</b>	No messaging related to Leave No Trace offered on-site	Minimum impact (not Leave No Trace) messaging included on-site	On-site messaging sometimes includes Leave No Trace education, but it is not locally tailored	On-site messaging sometimes includes Leave No Trace education that is locally tailored	On-site messaging consistently includes Leave No Trace education that is locally tailored
<b>Partnership with Land &amp; Water Managers</b>	Property does not interface with land and water managers	Property rarely interfaces with local land and water management agencies	Property sometimes interfaces with local land and water management agencies	Property consistently interfaces with local land and water management agencies	Property consistently interfaces with local land and water management agencies, and provide some level of support
<b>Additional Sustainability Measures</b>	Property does not currently incorporate sustainability measures	Property incorporates at least one sustainability practice such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.	Property incorporates at least two sustainability practices such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.	Property incorporates at least three sustainability practices such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.	Property incorporates at least four sustainability practices such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.

# LEAVE NO TRACE ASSESSMENT

## About the Assessment

This instrument is designed for hospitality organizations that wish to assess how they are implementing Leave No Trace, at what level it is being implemented, and to identify opportunities for increasing or improving specific aspects of their Leave No Trace efforts. It can be utilized to track progress over time.

This assessment is also utilized as a foundation for Leave No Trace Gold Standard Hospitality designation. Organizations that score **25** and above on the assessment and **meet the minimum score requirement for certain sections** are eligible to apply for Gold Standard designation. Organizations also must maintain a Leave No Trace partnership or equivalent agreement to be eligible for designation. Please contact [GoldStandard@LNT.org](mailto:GoldStandard@LNT.org) for more information on how to apply for designation.

## Using the Assessment

To use this assessment, go through each section and determine which scoring level best describes your organization's current efforts. The Staff section scoring is weighted double (x2) because this section is so critical in allowing for implementation elsewhere.

The following provides specific information about each section of the Leave No Trace Assessment and examples for each criteria. Please review the information before proceeding with the assessment, as it will help ensure an understanding of each of the assessment criteria.

# CRITERIA 1-2: STAFF & TRAINING

Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
Staff	No staff have received Leave No Trace training	At least one full-time staff member has completed a Leave No Trace workshop (Online 101 course, Effective Communication, etc.)	At least 20% of full time staff have completed Leave No Trace training at any level	At least 40% of full time staff have completed Leave No Trace training at any level	At least 60% of full time staff have completed Leave No Trace training at any level or 1 full time staff member is a certified Level 1 or 2 Instructor
Training Opportunities	No Leave No Trace training is offered to staff	Property encourages staff to take the 101 Course or other Leave No Trace workshop	Property facilitates or makes available Leave No Trace training for staff onboarding	Property facilitates or makes available Leave No Trace training for staff annually	Property facilitates or makes available Leave No Trace training for staff during onboarding and annually

The presence of Leave No Trace training is an important factor in implementation. It is critical to have a foundational knowledge of Leave No Trace from which to build all other aspects. This includes having staff that are trained in Leave No Trace, as well as having regular opportunities available for staff to participate in formal Leave No Trace training. This section examines the number of staff who have completed Leave No Trace training at various levels. It also looks at the type and frequency of Leave No Trace training opportunities available to staff.

Regular and consistent training is important to keep current on changes and updates and keep the information front of mind.

**In order to achieve Gold Standard designation, the organization must score at least one 3 or above on Staff. Because staff training is so critical to all aspects of Leave No Trace implementation, the score for this criteria is weighted x2.**

1

Staff: At least 1 full-time staff member has received Leave No Trace training at any level. This could be from an online Leave No Trace course, a Subaru Leave No Trace Team workshop, a workshop by other program staff or partners, etc.

Training Opportunities: Staff are encouraged to learn Leave No Trace, but no trainings are facilitated or made available.

2

Staff: At least 20% of full time staff members have received Leave No Trace training at any level.

Training Opportunities: Leave No Trace training at any level is made available as part of onboarding for staff. This could be through providing time for training, funding for training, or facilitating the training internally or through partners.

4

Staff: At least 60% of full time staff members have received Leave No Trace training at any level or 1 full time staff member is a certified Level 1 or 2 Instructor.

Training Opportunities: Leave No Trace training is made available annually and during onboarding for staff.

3

Staff: At least 40% of full time staff members have received Leave No Trace training at any level.

Training Opportunities: Leave No Trace training is made available annually for staff.

# CRITERIA 3: OPERATIONS & POLICIES

Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Operations &amp; Policies</b>	No internal policies, procedures, or formal guidance related to Leave No Trace.	Basic sustainability practices are included in operations, but no specific reference to Leave No Trace in policies or procedures.	Leave No Trace is included in some policies or procedures, but guidance is general and not tailored to the local environment.	Policies and procedures include Leave No Trace practices that are tailored to the local environment and are sometimes implemented.	Policies and procedures include Leave No Trace practices that are tailored to the local environment and are consistently implemented across operations.

Practicing Leave No Trace is not limited to parks and protected areas. It should also be reflected in how a hospitality property operates. When Leave No Trace is built into daily operations, it reinforces these practices for both staff and visitors and makes them easier to carry into nearby outdoor spaces.

This section of the assessment evaluates how Leave No Trace is incorporated into a property's operations through policies, procedures, and internal guidance. This may include standard operating procedures, staff protocols, or other formal commitments that outline how to minimize impacts at the property and in surrounding natural areas.

Examples may include procedures for preparing guests for outdoor activities, managing food and waste to avoid wildlife interactions, maintaining facilities in ways that reduce environmental impact, and providing clear expectations for staff.

1

Basic sustainability practices are included in operations, but there is no specific reference to Leave No Trace in policies or procedures.

For example, the property may have general practices such as energy or water conservation, but these are not connected to recreation impacts and Leave No Trace principles or clearly defined in operational policies.

2

Some policies or procedures reference Leave No Trace, but guidance is general and not tailored to the local environment.

For example, the property may include general Leave No Trace messaging in operations, but it does not reflect local conditions, wildlife, or specific outdoor areas visitors are likely to access.

4

Policies and procedures include Leave No Trace practices that are tailored to the local environment and are consistently implemented across the property.

These practices are integrated into daily operations, supported by appropriate infrastructure, and consistently followed by staff in ways that reinforce Leave No Trace for visitors both on-site and in nearby outdoor areas.

3

Policies and procedures include Leave No Trace practices that are tailored to the local environment, but they are only sometimes implemented.

For example, locally relevant practices may exist for certain departments or situations, but are not consistently applied across the property or reflected in all guest experiences.

# CRITERIA 4-5: PRE-TRIP & ON-SITE

Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Pre-Trip Information</b>	No pre-trip messaging related to Leave No Trace	Minimum impact (not Leave No Trace) information included in pre-trip materials	Pre-trip materials sometimes includes Leave No Trace information, but it is not locally tailored	Pre-trip materials sometimes includes Leave No Trace information that is locally tailored	Pre-trip materials consistently include Leave No Trace information that is locally tailored
<b>On-Site Messaging</b>	No messaging related to Leave No Trace offered on-site	Minimum impact (not Leave No Trace) messaging included on-site	On-site messaging sometimes includes Leave No Trace education, but it is not locally tailored	On-site messaging sometimes includes Leave No Trace education that is locally tailored	On-site messaging consistently includes Leave No Trace education that is locally tailored

Hospitality properties create a unique opportunity for education. Providing visitors with information around the existence of Leave No Trace and how to practice it will enhance their trip and set them up for success in the future.

This section examines the information that is provided before a trip and on-site at the property, and how Leave No Trace is incorporated. Providing visitors with information around how to practice Leave No Trace during their trip can help protect and preserve local parks and protected areas and enhance the visitor experience. This information may include safety tips for getting outdoors, information about local wildlife, and best practices for visiting the area. This information is most effective when provided both pre-trip and on-site.

**In order to achieve Gold Standard designation, the organization must score at least one 3 or above in this section.**

1

The information provided is minimum impact but not Leave No Trace. As an example, visitors are told to "Pack It In, Pack It Out," but not about Leave No Trace or the 7 Principles.

Part of the effectiveness of the Leave No Trace message is consistency. Visitors see similar messages and concepts at various parks and protected areas around the country and even the world. We encourage using Leave No Trace specifically to tap into this broader message.

2

The information or message sometimes include Leave No Trace, but it is not locally tailored. As an example, visitors are told to practice Leave No Trace, but not how or why it is relevant to the specific local area, activity, or ecosystem.

It is always best to tailor the message to the local area or specific activity. This makes the information relevant to the client and enhances their experience.

4

The information includes Leave No Trace and how it applies to the local area, specific activity, or ecosystem, and it is consistently provided before the majority of trips and across the property.

3

The information includes Leave No Trace and how it applies to the local area, specific activity, or ecosystem, but it is not consistently provided before all trips or across the property.

As an example, some visitors receive pre-trip information and some rooms include the information, but not all.

# CRITERIA 6: PARTNERSHIPS

Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Partnership with Land &amp; Water Managers</b>	Property does not interface with land and water managers	Property rarely interfaces with local land and water management agencies	Property sometimes interfaces with local land and water management agencies	Property consistently interfaces with local land and water management agencies	Property consistently interfaces with local land and water management agencies, and provide some level of support

The public lands that visitors come to enjoy require all our effort to protect and preserve. A community wide approach is the best way to ensure continued preservation of our outdoor areas.

The assessment looks at how the property interfaces with local land and water managers for parks and protected areas. This could be in the form of regular communication, attending events or listening sessions, or providing support through volunteering, donations of funds or resources, or assistance with maintenance.

We encourage consistent interfacing between gateway community businesses and organizations and land and water managers to ensure everyone is on the same page about potential impacts, seasonal changes, best practices, regulations, etc.

1

The property rarely interfaces with the land and water management agencies nearby. This refers to communications only on an as needed basis. For example, the property only communicates with the agencies when a special use permit needs to be reauthorized.

2

The property sometimes interfaces with the land and water management agencies nearby. This could mean communicating with the land and water managers annually or on a semi regular basis.

Interfacing could refer to direct communications or attending listening sessions, trainings, or other events put on by the local land and water managers.



4

The property consistently interfaces with the land and water management agencies nearby AND provides support in the form of volunteer time, donations of funds or resources, conditions reporting, or other assistance.

3

The property consistently interfaces with the land and water management agencies nearby. This could mean communicating with the land and water managers multiple times a year or on a regular basis.

This communication keeps the organization apprised of concerning impacts, changes to regulations or practices, or other important updates.



# CRITERIA 7: SUSTAINABILITY

Criteria	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Additional Sustainability Measures</b>	Property does not currently incorporate sustainability measures	Property incorporates at least one sustainability practice such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.	Property incorporates at least two sustainability practices such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.	Property incorporates at least three sustainability practices such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.	Property incorporates at least four sustainability practices such as: recycling or composting, single-use plastic mitigation, renewable energy use, etc.

While Leave No Trace focuses on outdoor recreation, other sustainable and planet-friendly practices are important components of protecting and preserving our natural world. This criteria examines any additional sustainability measures that might be in place at the property.

These include the practices listed on the assessment, but if your property is incorporating planet-friendly practices that are not listed, please still include them in your assessment, as this is not an exhaustive list.

We recognize that these practices are not accessible to all sites, and there may be barriers related to cost, infrastructure, or other resources that make a practice out of reach. The assessment is designed for an organization to still achieve designation without needing to incorporate these additional practices, but we encourage it where feasible.

1

The property has implemented at least one sustainability measure. This could include recycling or composting for clients, renewable energy use in trip logistics, single-use plastic mitigation, etc.

2

The property has implemented at least two sustainability measures. This could include recycling or composting for clients, renewable energy use in trip logistics, single-use plastic mitigation, etc.



4

The property has implemented at least four sustainability measures. This could include recycling or composting for clients, renewable energy use in trip logistics, single-use plastic mitigation, etc.

3

The property has implemented at least three sustainability measures. This could include recycling or composting for clients, renewable energy use in trip logistics, single-use plastic mitigation, etc.

