

## **SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: GREEN FEATURES**

For *Turning the Tide* and at all our gatherings, the Institute at the Golden Gate employs best practices for sustainable meetings. The site for most of the Institute’s programs, Cavallo Point—the Lodge at the Golden Gate, is in the process of attaining LEED certification—verifying attainment of the most rigorous standards for green building design and construction. These efforts represent just one more way the Institute turns talk into action, and principle into practice.

### **Sustainable Venue**

Last year, *Travel+Leisure* magazine named Cavallo Point as one of the top 10 “green American landmarks” for its environmentally-conscious facilities and accommodations. Throughout the restoration of buildings and grounds at Fort Baker, the National Park Service and the Fort Baker Retreat Group (developers of Cavallo Point) were committed to the highest standards of environmental sustainability and historic preservation. The site now features highly efficient buildings, green building materials like blue-jean denim and low-toxicity glues and paints, photovoltaic energy sources, water recycling systems, natural ventilation, radiant heating, light-pollution controls, and acres of replanted native plants. Cavallo Point meets the majority of the U.S. EPA’s 14-point guidelines for environmentally preferable meeting and conference facilities.

From eco-friendly soaps to light fixtures made of recycled parts, the lodge sets an example for waste minimization, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally responsible purchasing.

### **Event Practices**

The Institute employs a variety of measures to reduce the environment footprint of its meetings. For example, we print on recycled paper and minimize the number of printed handouts and signs. No plastic water bottles are used. Our menus feature locally-produced, organic ingredients. The comprehensive recycling plan covers paper, aluminum, and plastic—as well as off-site composting of food. (Composting cannot be done on-site as it could affect fragile native habitat.)

### **Transportation**

Guests arriving at SFO are encouraged to take the Marin Airporter bus from the airport to Sausalito, and Cavallo Point provides complimentary pick-up from the Sausalito bus stop. Cavallo Point also offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Sausalito ferry terminal for quick trips to San Francisco. The Cavallo Point campus is built for safe and comfortable pedestrian use, and on-site service vehicles run on alternative fuels.

### **Carbon Offsets**

The Institute at the Golden Gate has researched and evaluated carbon offset programs offered by dozens of nonprofits and businesses. TerraPass, Carbonfund.org, Sustainable Travel International, and Native Energy are some of the top organizations that provide high quality offsets.

For more detailed descriptions of our green meeting facilities and practices, visit [www.instituteatgoldengate.org](http://www.instituteatgoldengate.org).

