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**HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL BOSTON IS**

**CITY’S FIRST ACCOMMODATION TO RECEIVE LEED CERTIFICATION**

*HI-Boston is awarded* LEED® *Silver* *Certification*

**BOSTON, Ma. (July 8, 2014)** – Hostelling International Boston (HI-Boston) announced today that it has been awarded LEED® Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), making it Boston’s first tourist accommodations to achieve LEED Certification. Hostelling International Boston opened the doors to its new hostel in June 2012 and has since welcomed more than 200,000 travelers from more than 85 countries.

“This is a very exciting day for HI-Boston and Hostelling International USA,” says CEO Russ Hedge. “When we envisioned building a new hostel we were committed to opening an environmentally-friendly property. We exceeded expectations with the silver certification level and are very happy to bring this beautiful green hostel to the city of Boston.”

Since opening, HI-Boston has received a number of awards for architecture and green design including Award for Innovation in Green Design—Building Category from the Massachusetts Chapter of the US Green Building Council and Boston’s Greenovate Award.

"Hostelling International Boston is raising the bar for the hospitality industry in Boston," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "The city is attracting more and more young people, and I'm thrilled that HI is providing green accommodations for our visitors."

Constructed in the historic Dill Building (1886-1888), the project is an example of historic reuse. Reclaimed materials were used throughout the space, including stairwell floor joists turned into tables. Furniture in the kitchen and dining space include chairs made from recycled Coca Cola bottles and recycled aluminum tables.

Facility and operational efforts include LED lights and automatic timers, low-flow faucets and toilets, and ENERGY star appliances. Elevators are 50 percent more energy efficient than standard elevators and the housekeeping department uses an Ozone system eliminating the use of hot water when laundering linens and towels.

HI-Boston is owned and managed by Hostelling International USA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over 50 hostels across the country. HI-USA’s mission is to, “to help all, especially the young gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.” The Hostel hosts over 100,000 guests annually, 75 percent from other countries. HI-Boston organizes activities and events for its guests and the community on a daily basis. The diversity of HI-Boston’s visitors combined with activities, events and educational programming organized by the hostel for its guests and the community helps facilitate interaction among cultures.