



Michele Machado

Hostelling International USA; Community Engagement Manager – HI Portland Hawthorne

Sustainable Travel International; Assessor

Michele has over a decade of experience in the hospitality and tourism industries focusing on sustainable operations and authentic guest experiences. As an integral part of Hostelling International USA's (HI USA's) effort to expand sustainability best practices across its network, Michele engages with stakeholders to achieve property level quality management systems that are sustainable across the triple bottom line. Her work also centers on creating shared experiences for the local community of travelers that break down barriers, lead to increased tolerance and willingness to work together to improve the world for all.

Since 2009 Michele's work has received over 25 sustainability awards and Eco-certifications for HI USA hostels around the country. HI USA hosts over 1 million annual overnights across more than 50 hostels throughout the United States. She has presented at several industry events including the inaugural Lodging Green and Sustainability Conference in Dallas, TX and in Switzerland for the International Youth Hostel Federation. She has also participated as a judge for the City of Portland's Sustainability Best Awards and for NEWH The Hospitality Industry Network's Sustainable Design Competition.

Michele currently works for the internationally acclaimed HI Portland Hawthorne Hostel. As co-founder of the Sustainable Southeast Map, she is also engaged in her local community of Portland, OR. Michele holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Lewis and Clark College, is an international traveler, civic ecologist, certified sustainability assessor, nature enthusiast, mother and bluegrass aficionado who enjoys local foods and Oregon wines. She also owns her own business, EthosCascade, and occasionally performs independent sustainability audits of international tour operators for Sustainable Travel International.