



Turtle Friendly Certification
130 10th Ct. Vero Beach FL, 32962
Email: TurtleFriendlyCertification@coastal-connections.org
www.coastal-connections.org

Application Form

Sea Turtle Friendly Certification

Contact Info for Coastal Connections, Inc.

Sea Turtle Friendly Certification
130 10th Ct, Vero Beach FL, 32962
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Introduction:

The Sea Turtle Friendly Certification shows that the awarded establishment has become an environmental steward. The idea is to attract eco-minded individuals to incentivize the certified establishment and to educate other visitors to preserve the surroundings for future eco-tourists (or locals!) to enjoy.

1. Application Information

General Information	
Applicant (Property Name)	
Property Address	
Mailing Address (If Different)	
Website URL	
Primary Contact Name and Title	
Primary Contact Phone	
Primary Contact Email	
Secondary Contact Name and Title	
Secondary Contact Phone	
Secondary Contact Email	



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Social Media Accounts	
Facebook	
Instagram	
Twitter	
Other	

** It is required that the applicant review, sign and submit Attachments A and B along with the Application Donation and Environmental Plans. Additional resources are available and will be sent to all applicants as a separate attachment.*

Attachment A*: Fee Schedule

Attachment B*: Environmental Standards

Program Calendar and Checklist

Supplemental Resources Available:

Program Flow Chart

Example Inspection Report

Sea Turtle Facts

Plastics Alternatives Catalog



Attachment A

Fee Schedule

Please review the Fee Schedule and submit any questions to STFC email. All checks must be mailed to “Coastal Connections, Inc” at 130 10th Ct, Vero Beach FL, 32962. Please send proof of payment via email to TurtleFriendlyCertification@coastal-connections.org. **Payment is required to move into the candidate phase.**

Please check which application category you are applying for

- 1) **First Time Applicants - \$500**
 - a) First time applicants and reapplying applicants that were previously unable to meet all requirements in the previous candidate phase, must schedule and attend at least one pre-application meeting prior to submission of the completed application. The applicant must set up a pre-application meeting by following these steps:
 - (1) Contact the application review committee at TurtleFriendlyCertification@coastal-connections.org
 - (2) Request to schedule a pre-application meeting before January 15th. This will provide the applicant time to finalize application submittals prior to the application **due date of February 15th**.
 - (a) Please note: Application drafts and questions during the initial pre-application meeting are meant to be a basic starting point, no final products are necessary until the application due date of February 15th. It is understood that first-time applicants will have a number of questions.
 - (3) Mail the full application donation before the submittal of the final application.
 - (a) Should the applicant decide to not continue with the application process the non-refundable deposit will be considered a donation to Coastal Connections, Inc.

- 2) **Renewal Applicants - \$300 Annually**
 - a) A pre-application meeting is optional but encouraged to review plans.
 - b) Renewal requests must be submitted by **February 15th** each year.

I _____ (signature of applicant) have read and understand the above outlined fee schedule. Should I have any questions or require clarification I will reach out to the certifying organization before signing this form.



Attachment B

Environmental Standards - Application Requirements

It is recommended that draft plans be submitted before the scheduled pre-application meeting. Pre-applications meetings are required for first time applicants and optional for renewing applicants. Pre-application meetings will provide time to review the environmental standards which must be met throughout the certification year and time to review draft plans. Final plans should be submitted with the application form by February 15th. Please ensure fees outlined in Attachment A are mailed prior to the application due date. The STFC committee will review applications and renewals by March 1st, the start of the certification year. If applications are denied before the March 1st deadline, the applicant will be given an opportunity to revise plans to meet the program standards before March 1st. If the applicant is renewing their certification, previously accepted plans will automatically be used unless revisions to plans have been made by the applicant. It is encouraged that the applicant constantly attempts to achieve the highest standards of Sea Turtle Friendly and eco-tourism operations.

Please check off each plan as you have prepared it for your application.

Light Plan

In the submission of your Light Plan, please explain in detail how your entity is following the State's recommended guidelines and local lighting ordinance. Include what steps are being taken to retrofit current lights (if applicable). The plan submission shall include a citation of all ordinances pertaining to beachfront lighting at your property. See below for all requirements that the application review committee will be looking for.

- 1) Candidates shall follow State recommended guidelines. Keep it Long, Keep it Low, Keep it Shielded. For more information visit: [FWC's Sea Turtle Lighting Guidelines](#).
- 2) Know and obey the local lighting ordinance (Times of Day and Year, Light Visibility).
- 3) It is recommended that current engineered lighting plans be submitted.
 - a) If submitted, plans should include a visual layout of lights and fixture choice to show compliance with the State recommended guidelines and local lighting ordinance(s).
 - b) If applicable, show receipts or similar of newly purchased turtle friendly compliant lights.
- 4) Summary of how interior lights will be mitigated for and the exterior lights are scheduled.



Natural Beaches Plan

In the submission of your Natural Beaches Plan, please explain in detail how your entity is going to maintain natural beaches in the evening during sea turtle nesting season and clean beaches year-round. See below for all requirements that the application review committee will be looking for.

Natural Beaches Defined:

The sandy portion of the beach from the seaward edge of development to the water's edge where the area is free of man-made debris/trash and obstacles including, but not limited to, beach furniture, holes, recreation equipment, etc.

Part A: Removal of Obstructions

- 1) Must provide a written and visual description of how and when obstacles to nesting sea turtles and hatchlings will be removed from the sandy beach and the sandy beach will be leveled to the natural profile daily.

Part B: Clean Beaches

- 1) Must conduct at least one coastal cleanup annually
 - a) Outline expected date(s), location(s), and advertisement methods for staff and guests to join
 - b) You may join forces with another organization or certification candidate to co-lead your annual cleanup(s).
- 2) Must sweep the sandy portion of the beach of man-made debris daily before evening

Educational Plan

In the submission of your Educational Plan, please explain in detail how your entity plans on educating staff, property guests, and visitors to the area about sea turtles, sea turtle protection, and steps the property has made to be sea turtle friendly. Plans must describe what kind of materials will be utilized in your educational effort. Include examples of videos, brochures, signs, emails, table tents, guest talks, magnets, media posts, window clings, etc. See below for requirements that the application review committee will be looking for in your plans and during inspections:



Part A: Facts and Materials

- 1) The required educational facts must be included in educational material or programs provided on the establishment property.
 - a) No style or branding is required, material can be presented in any way the entity desires so long as the material remains factually correct and is visible to staff and guests, and is easy to read or hear. So get creative! The template(s) provided in the supplemental resources attachment may be used in lieu of creating your own educational materials or programs.
 - b) Required facts for educational materials or programs:
 - i) Florida Wildlife Hotline Number 1-888-404-3922 (FWCC)
 - ii) Sea Turtle Friendly Lighting rules in effect March 1-October 31
 - iii) Reducing the use of single-use plastics and recycling are two of the easiest ways to protect sea turtles and other wildlife
 - c) Optional sea turtle facts can be found in the supplemental resources section
- 2) Locations, where educational materials or programs are displayed, must be explained within the Education Plan.
 - a) Displays or program promotions must be easily visible to guests
 - b) Displays or program promotions are encouraged to meet up to date ADA criteria

Part B: Public Promotion

- 1) Social Media Posting
 - a) Candidates must make at least 2 educational posts on their social account(s)
 - (1) Start of the season (Feb/March)
 - (2) Peak season (June/July)
 - (3) Additional posts encouraged throughout the nesting season
 - b) Must tag CCinc in both required posts and use the certification hashtag(s)
 - i) #seaturtlefriendlycertified
 - c) Required post content should include the following:
 - i) At a minimum, the required facts listed in section 1b
 - ii) Public notification that your entity is a candidate for the Sea Turtle Friendly Certification
- 2) Visibility of Certification Seal
 - iii) Candidates must post the STFC Seal and a backlink on their website.
 - iv) Candidates are required to post the STFC Seal on the property.
 - (1) The seal must be in a publicly visible location.
 - (2) Format for visibility is up to candidate (sticker, plaque, frame, etc.)



Sustainability Plan

In the submission of your Sustainability Plan, please explain in detail how your entity is going to recycle and work to reduce, and eventually eliminate, single-use plastic products. See below for all requirements that the application review committee will be looking for.

Part A: Single-Use Plastic Reduction

- 1) The plan must provide an outline for replacing and/or eliminating the following single-use plastic products: *to-go containers, straws, cups, utensils, bags*.
 - a) If single-use plastics are not eliminated within the first year of the Certification, the entity must update the sustainability plan, or submit a long-term plan, that identifies the steps they will take annually to reduce single-use plastic availability each year until fully eliminated from regular operations.
 - b) If there are plans to reduce and eliminate other single-use plastics products like complimentary mini soaps, etc. please identify these in the submittal
- 2) Not sure where to begin to find your plastic alternatives? CCinc's plastic alternative catalog is provided as a supplemental resource.

Part B: Recycling

- 1) Recycling is required on the property.
 - a) Plans must include a visual outline of recycling bin locations.
 - b) Recycling bins must be easily accessible and available to guests in convenient locations.
- 2) Proof of active recycling services must be provided each year (i.e. Copy of Invoice)

Environmental Standards Review

I _____ (signature of applicant) have read and understand the above outlined Environmental Standards required for the submittal of four Environmental Plans unique to the property applying for the Certification program. Should I have any questions or require clarification I will reach out to the certifying organization before signing this form.



Application Checklist

Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed Attachment A (Fee Schedule)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed Attachment B (Environmental Standards)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Application/Renewal Fee</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Educational Plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Lighting Plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Sustainability Plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Natural Beaches Plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Program Calendar

Important Dates:	Actions:
January 15th	First application meeting scheduled. At least one application meeting is required by first-time applicants. It is recommended draft plans be provided for review during the application meeting.
February 15th	Applications Due! Includes: Environmental Plans, Application Form and Fee Donation.
March 1st - October 31st	The certification year. Candidates must remain compliant during nesting season with approved plans all year long (March 1st - October 31st). Inspections throughout season.
March/April	Post on social media (<i>nesting season has begun</i>)
June/July	Post on social media (<i>Peak season! Hatchlings are here</i>)
November	Notice of the next year's certification renewal or application process to be sent out. Certification awards are presented annually.



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