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Greetings!

Ways Hotels can Reduce their Impact on the Environment

The question of the way to reduce your hotel's impact on the environment may be a hot button issue today, but in all honesty the argument over whether "going green" should really be a priority for the hospitality industry is over. With numerous options on the table, it can seem overwhelming but it doesn't have to be though. It is a priority for a number of reasons, which include: customer loyalty, cost savings, and most importantly, environmental impact. From an environmental perspective, going green can be one of the ways accommodations can reduce their impact on the environment. This can be achieved through the following measures:

Start Composting Food Waste

If your hotel still dumps its food waste, then you're missing out on the benefits of composting food waste. Not only is it a popular and well-known green initiative that will impress your guests, it can save your hotel money since the compost can be used on landscaping as well as in the organic garden.

The compost you create can then be used as an organic fertilizer for landscaping – also helping the environment, as well as giving your guests beautiful lawns to look at. It is worth noting that many artificial fertilizers are incredibly harmful to the soil microorganisms and wildlife when they enter local waterways. Therefore, by composting your organic waste, you'll reduce your hotel's impact on the environment and help your local ecosystem all at once! The illustration below is of a properly covered composting pit taken during the audit of Kichwa Tembo camp in 2019.



Save Water

Considering the facts that water is the element that brings life and that it's scarce makes its conservation a high priority. While the transition to use of water saving technologies such as dual flush toilet cisterns and water efficient washing machines contributes to water saving in accommodations, it also plays a crucial role in reducing their impact on the environment. A great way for hotels to conserve water is by metering and sub metering the key consumption points and conducting routine readings and checks on areas where water is being wasted and also identifying any leaks.

Reduce Plastic Waste

A great way for hotels to be friendlier with the environment is by reducing their plastic waste. Everything from plastic bottles & bags, cutlery, soap & shampoo bottles, straws, and other guest essentials lead to massive plastic waste that do not biodegrade.

Further, making water stations available to guests will discourage the use of single plastic bottled water. Reducing this plastic waste footprint is not just brilliant for the environment but also cost-effective for the hotel owner. It goes without saying that this is also a fantastic way to go green. It lowers the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills or ends up in the ocean. Through seemingly small changes like these, you can reduce your hotel's impact on the environment substantially. The illustration below is a picture of a water dispenser station where guest can refill their reusable water bottles at Leopard Hill Camp.



Embrace Recycling and Reusing as much as possible

Recycling and reusing supplies not only helps to cut on the amount of waste that a hotel or an accommodation facility generates, but also reduces the total expenditure. This entails use of cloth napkins instead of paper ones and also use of products that are made from recycled plastics, glasses, and metallic containers. These are example of great ways of introducing recycling into your hotel operations.

By settling for recycled products, you're operations are environmentally friendly, cost effective and guests will be impressed by your efforts. It's possible to reuse materials from your hotel too. This can be seen in some camps and lodges where wine bottles are cut into two halves to make a drinking glass and a wine glass.

Buy from Local, Sustainable Businesses

Hotels and accommodations can reduce their environmental impact through making smart purchasing choices. Food miles are one of the hidden things that have a huge increase on a hotel's carbon footprint and its overall environmental impact. Imagine how much fuel is used to transport food thousands of miles and how many gallons of fuel are burnt through. Buying

locally can drastically reduce your hotel's carbon footprint, by reducing your food miles. It is also critical for the local economy since it benefits the local community and supports local jobs.

Encourage Guests to be Green

Have cards in each room asking guests to reuse towels if possible, or turn out the lights when they leave their rooms. Make recycling bins readily available to guests and be sure that they are aware of your green programs. When guests see that your hotel is making an effort to help the environment, they will try and be a part of it as well, which contributes to reduction of a hotels environmental impact.

We currently live in a world that's growing more and more environmentally conscious. There are so many ways to bring that into your daily business operations and reducing your hotel's environmental impact is a great place to begin. It's easy being green, so why not start today?