

Hotels Impact on the Environment

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Despite tourism being a profitable economic sector, its benefits are frequently accompanied by many negative environmental impacts. Some hotels around the world have implemented important greening initiatives to reduce their impact on the environment. They include energy, water, waste, etc.

Hotels tracking utility bills enable to monitor the efficiency of their energy conservation initiatives. Hotels can produce cost savings on their utilities bills every month by installing energy-efficient technologies such as heating/cooling systems, appliances, and lighting.

Water tables are constantly falling, underground aquifers are being depleted, lakes are shrinking and wetlands are drying up in the world. Water conservation is necessary in all territories of the globe. Up to 50% of water used by families can be saved by implementing simple conservation methods.

Hotel industry can reduce the amount of produced waste by implementing and following a waste management system that is modelled around the concepts of reduces, reuse and recycle. Nearly 54 percent of the hotels solid wastes can either be recycled or reused.

More and more corporations include a commitment to the environment as part of their mission statement, the demand for conference facilities that also reflect this commitment is constantly growing too. In most cases, the mandate given to the meeting planner is to plan and promote a conference that uses suppliers who have an environmental policy, and whose products and services offer the best environmental specification or the least harmful environmental option.

Green building practices are increasingly being used in new developments, mainly for energy and water efficiency and to reduce hazardous waste. The use of the environmentally sensitive paints and building materials will significantly reduce the impact on the environment. Initiatives such as green roofs and using natural materials also reduce building and energy costs.

Hotels have the ability to buy in bulk and to influence the supplier to provide less packaging and use more environmentally friendly materials. Hotels should actively support initiatives for community development in their territories.

Employee involvement is necessary for the success of the environmental program. Employee engagement through educational opportunities, site visits, competitions, newsletters, and other methods, encourages the staff to become involved in a hotel environmental program. Social responsibility, such as becoming involved in the local community or the community at large, benefits the organization in a number of ways.

References

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