

SUSTOUR-MED

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KA210-VET - Small-scale partnerships in vocational education and training



Good Practices: Green Village

Practice number	1.2
Name of the Practice	GUIDE TO GREENING HOTELS THROUGH WASTE MANAGEMENT & GREEN PURCHASING
Theme	1. Waste Management
Type	3. Case Study
Developer / initiator	Mary Ann Remolador of the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC)
Short description	This document provides a step-by-step approach for materials reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and green purchasing at hotels. The strategies outlined in this document support the eligibility requirements for waste management and green purchasing for small hotels
Goal	To provide a Guide with concrete practices and interventions for tourism SMEs in order to promote circular economy and sustainable waste management
Detailed description	<p>I. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES</p> <p>Reducing & Reusing are the first two steps to decreasing a hotel’s overall waste. Material reduction and reuse efforts focus on actions that staff can take to reduce their department or individual waste generation while at work.</p> <p>Step 1 – Assess the Amount of Recyclables in the Trash. The results of an assessment will provide management with the volume of recyclables being generated at the hotel. The assessment may be done in two ways—a visual assessment or a waste sort.</p> <p>Step 2 - Target Specific Materials for Recycling. Based on the visual assessment or waste sort, it will be obvious which recyclable materials are generated the most and from what departments in the hotel. By focusing on the most common recyclables in the trash, the hotel will be able to substantially reduce its waste disposal fees.</p> <p>Step 3 – Contract with a Hauler for Recycling Services. Before a hotel can implement a recycling program, it must find a hauler</p>

that handles recyclables. Oftentimes, this may be as easy as contacting the hotel’s existing trash hauler and renegotiating its service contract.

Step 4 – Purchase Recycling Bins. To make recycling easy for guests and staff, recycling bins should be consistent in color and just as visible and accessible as trash bins throughout the hotel. This will convey the message to guests and staff that recycling is important at the hotel. Recycling bins are easily purchased via the Internet and by asking the hotel’s existing suppliers.

Step 5 – Collect Food Waste for Composting. Diverting food waste for composting is a great waste diversion activity for hotels and can result in significant savings in trash disposal costs. The key is to come up with a plan for collecting the waste that will work with staff, communicate the plan clearly to staff, monitor the plan implementation, and identify an appropriate hauler that takes food waste.

Step 6. Document Waste Management Programs. It is extremely important that the efforts implemented by staff for reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting be documented on a monthly basis in addition to the trash disposal costs. The information to be recorded should include amounts of materials diverted from the waste stream and related costs. This information will be useful when making future decisions about waste management. It will also be important for staff to see the results of their efforts and the volume of material diverted.

Step 7. Review Waste Management Program. It is best to review and re-evaluate the material reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting programs on a regular basis. When new, it is important to monitor the programs weekly until the kinks are worked out. Oftentimes, minor changes can increase efficiencies. Later, this can be done on a quarterly or bi-annual basis

Step 8. Share the Hotel’s Progress on Waste Minimization & Diversion. Many people today are concerned with environmental issues. By the hotel sharing its efforts and progress in reducing, reducing, recycling, and composting on its Website, in press releases, and other marketing materials, it helps potential guests know that the hotel cares about the environment and is doing its part to reduce its environmental footprint. Sharing this information may also increase the potential for return guest visits.

Innovativeness	It is a guide providing concrete examples, practices and procedures for hotel SMEs to promote circular economy and sustainable waste management. Its innovativeness lies on the fact that it is results-oriented, with step by step instructions and concrete examples of interventions and activities to be taken
Financial aspect	€€ = Moderate investment €€€ = considerable investment
Country	US
Target Group	small hotels
Transferability	Since the handbook was developed for a region in the US, some of its practices and procedures need to be adapted to the realities of the Mediterranean context. However, since waste management is a common challenge for all hotels regardless of the local environment, it can still act as a concrete guide for hotel SMEs in the Mediterranean region
Website and/or relevant links	https://nerc.org/documents/greening_hotels/green_hotels_guide.pdf