Greetings!!

Resource use efficiency

Efficiency means getting the most value out of your resources such as energy, water or raw materials. The benefits of resource use efficiency in hotel business include increased profits, improved environmental performance and a positive reputation amongst your guests. Ecotourism Kenya through the Eco-rating certification promotes resource efficiency in accommodations. We also seek to recognize and celebrate the leaders in Ecotourism best practices, including in wise resource use. Among the categories in this year’s Eco warrior Award is one which seeks out industry leaders in resource use.

This week we will highlight the various steps and innovations that can be incorporated in facilities in order to achieve resource efficiency.

Energy efficiency

A facility can ensure energy efficiency by creating a switch off policy so that lighting and air conditioners are turned off in the unused areas and areas that receive natural light. This can also be passed down to the employees and guests by management providing switch off notices to constantly serve as reminders. Facilities should also use energy efficient lamps like LED bulbs to save on energy. In the kitchen, saving energy in the use of catering facilities should be a priority and this can be ensured by switching off and unplugging of appliances immediately after their
use. Energy metering in all the key departments is key in the regular monitoring of consumptions and effectively working towards energy use reduction. See the picture below of an energy saving reminder that you could use in your facility.

Water efficiency

Water use efficiency in the washrooms can achieved in the hospitality industry by installing low flush or dual flash toilets and motion-sensored urinal flush. All these greatly reduce the water used per flush. In the laundry section, it’s important that the laundry machines are operated on optimum load to cut on wastages. The facilities should also provide water saving notices to serve as constant reminder for the guests and staff and also try out alternative water sources e.g. treat the grey water and use it in the irrigation of the lawns or even harvest the rain water and use it for cleaning. Lastly, facilities should have metering done on the key usage department for constant monitoring and devising new ways to effectively reduce on their consumption. Below is an image of water saving notice taken during the 2019 Coast region audits.
Material efficiency and waste reduction

Facilities should constantly carry out green procurement by buying products that are less harmful to the environment and those that reduce the carbon footprints. Procurement of products should be done in bulk and where possible the reusable packaging is returned to the suppliers after each delivery. Waste from the guestrooms and cleaning products can be cut on by replacing the single use toiletries with refillable containers. The waste bins should also be clearly marked and staff trained on waste segregation.

The hotel facilities should improve on their waste separation by implementing the 4R’s waste management hierarchy i.e. reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. Wherever possible, waste reduction is the preferable option. If waste is produced, every effort should be made to reuse it if practicable. Recycling is the third option in the waste management hierarchy and should only be considered for waste which cannot be reduced or reused. Finally, it may be possible to recover materials or energy from waste which cannot be reduced, reused or recycled.
If you are already implementing the above strategies, we invite you to apply for the awards this year. Please visit 2019 Eco Warrior Award for more details and to apply.