Greetings!

**Efforts of Ecorated facilities in promoting sustainable consumption and production**

According to the United Nations, sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all.

In the recent years, globally there has been increased economic growth. However, this has brought in itself the need to reduce our ecological footprint in order to secure the future of our planet. There has been global consensus that, for us to achieve this, we have to change the way we produce and consume goods and resources. For example, it is estimated that irrigation of agricultural land now claims close to 70 percent of all fresh water for human use. This is a trend that should be reversed if we are to ensure that this precious and finite resource is available not only for the present generation but also future generations.

Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste, recycle wastewater and promote water efficiency is critical towards realisation of sustainable consumption and production. This is basically transitioning from the business as usual kind of consumption (linear economy) to a circular economy. In Kenya, Ecorated facilities are at the
forefront in implementing sustainable practices, so that resources such as energy and water are consumed and produced responsibly.

This week we want to highlight some of these practices.

A. Investment in renewable energy resources

Unsustainable patterns of energy consumption and production such as use of charcoal and firewood not only have potential effects on human health, but also on our ecosystems. It is also the major contributor of climate change through emission of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon and methane. Ecorated facilities are leading the push in sustainable production of energy by investing in ecofriendly energy resources such as briquettes and solar. For instance, Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge in Tsavo West National Park has installed a fully-fledged solar power plant that has enabled it to provide not only for its entire power requirements but also enhance environmental sustainability. This ground-breaking project commissioned in the year 2018 has indeed placed Kenya on a global map. The facility won the special award “Extraordinary Business Case and CSR” at the Global Best Practices Award in October 2018 in Milan Italy. The picture below taken in July 2019 during the Ecorating reassessment of the facility is that of a section of its solar plant.
B. Installation of water saving equipment and water harvesting

Reducing water consumption in your business such as a lodge is a simple and easy way to not only decrease your water bill but also reduce your impact on the environment. Installation of water saving equipment in the guest rooms and public areas is one of the most important steps you can take to reduce the water consumption levels in your operations. Some of these equipment include dual flush toilets and water saving taps. Another way in which you can promote water conservation is through water harvesting in areas where this is feasible. Some facilities such as Saasab Lodge in Samburu region have also embraced the bucket system where water that runs just before a hot shower is collected and reused for example in irrigating grass lawns.

C. Composting of food waste

When was the last time you looked in your fridge and had to throw something away? For many of us this is more common than we would like to admit. This results to huge wastage of food most of which just ends up in the dumpsites. As a result, reduction of food waste has now become a critical area of concern in our quest to move towards more sustainable lifestyles. However, to achieve sustainable consumption of food, action is required at every level. Some of these actions include: investing in reliable food storage equipment, cooking enough to reduce Food Plate Waste, reducing post-harvest wastage by creating ready markets to local producers and composting of food waste. Some of the ecorated facilities have implemented the latter to a great effect, and the resulting compost is then used in organic gardens. The picture below taken in the month of April 2019 at Mara Intrepids Camp during the Ecorating reassessment in Mara region, illustrates vegetables grown through use of compost.
Accommodation facilities are encouraged to find solutions to sustainable consumption and production; reducing impacts and improving the overall well-being. We hope that by reading this article you have been inspired to implement some of these best practices!