Greetings!

**Why you should not burn your solid waste**

Businesses such as hotels, camps and lodges generate large volumes of solid waste such as plastic, glass and metal from their operations. There has been increasing generation of waste mainly caused by: growth of economies, increased population and lifestyle changes among others. The potential impact of improper waste management such as pollution of ground water, surface water and air cannot be overstated. We are therefore required to take steps and manage our waste sustainably.

Sustainable waste management helps to conserve the environment and reduce potential impact on human health. Burning of waste such as plastic has been used as a convenient way of managing waste, due to the fact that it saves time and effort but this is detrimental. The illustration below is that of solid waste burnt in a burning pit.
This week we want to highlight for you some of the reasons why this is not considered as a best practice, and also describe some of the sustainable waste management practices you can adopt.

**Health hazard**

Most people who burn waste have never realised how harmful this practice is to human health. It is widely acknowledged through research that burning of waste increases the risk of heart disease, respiratory diseases such as asthma and cause rashes and headaches among others. When you burn waste such as plastic, highly toxic chemicals are generated and this end up settling on crops and in our water sources such as rivers and lakes, eventually wind up in our food affecting our health.

**Environmental impacts**

Across the world, there is increased attention to the significant role burning of waste has on environmental degradation. Burning of waste leads generation of emissions such as carbon and mercury which pollutes the air. Further, some of these emissions have been known to cause global warming resulting into devastating climate change effects.

**What is the solution to burning waste?**
1. Recycling of waste

It is important to note that most of the materials we usually burn such as plastic and even metallic tins and glass are recyclable. The practice of waste recycling has a wide range of benefits. They include: reduced energy consumption since the need to produce new products is minimised, less habitat destruction and reduced emissions therefore a positive impact to global warming. Further, through recycling you are able to make significant savings of your hard earned cash!

2. Re-use of waste

The best way to reduce the amount of waste we generate, of course is to not create it in the first place. Re-use of waste is one of the most sustainable measures you could adopt. By reusing waste you cut down on the amount of materials that end up at the dumpsite. Some of the ecorated facilities have made huge strides in this area. The illustration below is that of wine glass re-used as decor at Sands at Nomad; a Gold rated property in Diani.
There is need for awareness on how you can sustainably manage your waste. We hope that by reading this article you will implement some of the highlighted best practices in your operations!