Greetings!

**Why you should segregate your waste properly**

“The earth will not continue to offer its harvest except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations” said John Paul II. This environmental quote serves as a constant reminder of our stewardship over earth, which we have a duty to take care of, for example through proper waste management. In some places you go to you will find some form of waste segregation, whether it is at your office, at the gym, in school or at a camp or a lodge. However, separation is not always at the expected standards, so the most important question is why is it necessary to put your waste in the right bin? This article provides all the answers to this question, so that we can all appreciate the importance of proper waste management to our operations and planet.

**It is a legal requirement**

Under the [NEMA Waste Regulations of 2006](https://www.nema.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Waste-Regulations-2006.pdf), the person who generates waste is required to segregate it, and further the generator has an obligation to ensure that such waste is transferred to a person who is licensed to transport and dispose of such waste in a designated waste disposal facility.

**It is easier to recycle**

One of the most important steps you can take towards ensuring that the waste you generate is recycled is by separating it at the source. Through separation, there is improved quality of the
material to be recycled. As a business, you should make it easier for your staff to properly separate waste by providing adequate labeled or color-coded bins. This should be along proper waste categories which include: paper, plastic, glass, metal, food waste and e-waste. One requirement in the Eco-rating certification is proper waste separation. Some eco-rated facilities have demonstrated this in quite exemplary ways. One such example is AfroChic Diani, a luxurious hotel located along the Kenyan Coast of Diani. The picture below taken during the Ecorating reassessment of the property in October 2019, illustrate well labeled food waste bin at the kitchen.

Separation of waste should further be implemented at the waste holding area along proper waste categories as highlighted above. The illustration below is that of a waste holding area at Ol Pejeta Bush Camp.
Staff should also be sensitised on separation, so that for example when they are confronted with the choice of either to put polythene wrappings in a paper bin or plastic bin they do not have to hesitate but just to reach over the plastic bin and pop it in there!

**Promotion of public health**

Did you know that by separating your waste and recycling will ensure that less waste is dumped at the municipal dumpsites? Yes, this is the case and this leads to protection of public health. For instance, hazardous waste such as batteries, oil contaminated materials e.g. used oil filters when not dumped properly can lead to pollution of soil, ground water and surface water. This is because they contain heavy metals and toxic chemicals which are harmful to human health. It is therefore of vital importance, that waste such as this are properly separated, and appropriate measures such as recycling are taken so that they do not end up in the environment and public health is protected.

Taking care of the planet is not a one man job, so it is important that we spread the sustainability knowledge and “gospel” to our friends, colleagues and the industry in general. It is therefore our hope that through this article, we have informed and inspired you, so that you can be able to manage your waste sustainably first by separation at source.