

Chapter 5

Sustainable Waste Management Practices in the Hospitality Industry: Towards Environmental Responsibility and Economic Viability

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines sustainable waste management practices within the hospitality industry, a crucial segment of the global tourist sector that significantly impacts environmental health through waste production (Oluwole et al., 2020). Initially, it outlines the industry's structure and its role in waste generation, emphasizing the necessity for sustainable practices to mitigate environmental harm. The chapter highlights the environmental repercussions of poor waste management, including pollution and biodiversity loss, stressing the urgency for proactive measures. Additionally, it reviews the legal frameworks governing waste management and their importance in ensuring sustainability. Strategies for reducing, reusing, recycling, recovering, and disposing of waste are discussed, along with the role of technology in enhancing efficiency. Case studies illustrate successful initiatives, underscoring

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sustainable waste management's economic, social, and corporate benefits. These benefits include cost savings, improved public perception, and enhanced corporate responsibility.

1. INTRODUCTION

The hospitality industry, an essential component of the global tourist sector, is widely recognised for delivering lodging, dining, and recreational amenities to millions worldwide (Nikolskaya et al., 2019). Although the hospitality business excels at offering its customers comfort, elegance, and pleasure, it also encounters a significant obstacle when generating waste. Hospitality facilities generate waste daily because their operations contribute to ecological deterioration (Oluwole et al., 2020). The variety of waste streams is vast, encompassing food waste, packing materials, linens, amenities, and disposable products. As a result, the accumulation of waste creates environmental issues and brings about logistical and financial difficulties for waste management and disposal. Over 45 percent of luxury hotels in India have incorporated advanced technology into their food management systems, resulting in a significant 30 percent decrease in food waste during the previous year (Trends in food waste reduction, 2024). This chapter discusses sustainable waste management in the hospitality sector, focusing on waste generation, environmental impact, legal frameworks, and sustainable solutions. It highlights the negative environmental consequences of inadequate waste management, discusses legislative frameworks, and discusses sustainable waste management methods. The chapter emphasises practical benefits, social responsibility, and future trends in waste management techniques.

The hospitality industry increasingly prioritises sustainable waste management practices due to the environmental consequences and societal demands. Sustainable waste management involves implementing measures prioritising waste reduction, resource efficiency, and environmental stewardship at every stage of hospitality operations. By incorporating sustainability concepts into waste management processes, businesses can reduce their ecological impact, improve process efficiency, and cultivate a favourable brand image among environmentally conscious consumers. Adopting sustainable waste management strategies can provide numerous benefits to hospitality organisations. Firstly, it reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, relieving pressure on waste disposal facilities and minimising environmental contamination. Additionally, it promotes resource preservation through measures such as recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy conversion, thereby saving valuable resources and reducing the release of greenhouse gases. Furthermore, implementing sustainable waste management strategies can lead to financial benefits such as decreased waste disposal costs, improved operational efficiency, and the

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