GREEN KEY Eco-Rating Program

The Green Scene

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2010 VANCOUVER OLYMPIC ECO-FACTS

- VANOC is the first Olympic committee to track and tackle its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the day it won the bid on July 2, 2003.
- The committee has cut its projected emissions by 18 percent or 57 000 tonnes (t).
- The reduction in direct emissions was achieved, in part, through a combination of energy-efficient technologies and processes (e.g. LEED®), the use of renewable energy (e.g. hydro-electric power) and conservation activities.

See more Olympic Eco-Facts on page 9.

Measure for Measure:

Improving Your Hotel's Waste Management Practices

By: Francisca Quinn, Sustainability Practice Leader & Business Manager— Loop Initiatives

Your hotel's Green Team has likely invested considerable time and effort in setting up waste diversion programs. You've researched the recycling and compost options that your municipality or private waste management company can provide. You've ensured that properly-labelled recycling and compost bins have been installed at convenient locations throughout your property so they are easy to use. You've educated your staff on correct sorting procedures, and you may well be auditing bin use to ensure the highest level of compliance.

Your next step is to promote your programs as evidence of your successful green strategy – whether in communications with guests, your employees, the community or environmental awards programs that recognize sustainability efforts.

But are you ready? Hotels are often ill-equipped to track their waste streams. And without a formal measurement process, you lack the necessary data not only to prove the success of your waste reduction and waste diversion initiatives, but to improve your in-house waste management processes.

In this article, we outline a simple process to measure waste and waste diversion that will enable reporting and continuous improvement.

Let's start with some definitions. Waste can be divided into three categories:

- recyclable waste;
- compostable waste; and
- waste sent to landfill.

Recyclable waste is waste that is diverted from landfill through recycling collection; it is then reused and reformed to create new products. Recyclable waste can be broken into sub-categories such as glass, plastic, aluminum, cardboard & paper, wood, metal, grease, and electronic waste (e.g. computers, TVs and fridges). Recycling benefits the environment as it reduces raw material consumption, energy consumption carbon emissions and air pollution, and produces less landfill volume.

Compostable waste is organic food and garden waste that is diverted from landfill through either on-site composting or collection by an external hauler for off-site composting. The waste biodegrades into nutrient rich black soil that can be used for gardening and landscaping.

Waste sent to landfill is waste that cannot be diverted through either recycling or composting and is therefore disposed of by being sent to a garbage dump or landfill where it is incinerated, buried or decomposed. There are a number of adverse impacts associated with landfill waste, including contamination of ground water and soil, methane off-gassing and loss of natural environment driven by the need to create ever larger landfills.

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To learn more about ways to improve your property's Waste Management Practices, contact Francisca at:

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loop initiatives

Il est trop tard... *suite à la page 3*

Selon Léger Marketing le changement environnemental et climatique est l'une des nouvelles réalités et se range comme deuxième plus grand problème que nous faisons actuellement face selon 37 pour cent de Canadiens. En fait 61 pour cent des gens entre 18-24 ans sont préoccupés par la planète étant dans le péril dû au changement climatique. Cette question est seulement dépassée par les soucis des Canadiens concernant l'économie et l'emploi.

Clairement le marché entraîne le changement. Une étude internationalle par TripAdvisor en 2009 a prouvé que 40 pour cent des gens ont pris en compte des pratiques environnementales en réservant des voyages. Cette attitude est aussi bien reflétée parmi les voyageurs canadiens. Selon l'association des hôtels du Canada "Les intentions annuelles du voyage en 2008", 81 pour cent de répondants ont dit qu'ils font toujours ou autant que possible, un effort de réduire leur éco-empreinte en recyclant, en controlant l'utilisation des lumières et la réutilisation des serviettes lorsqu'ils séjournent dans un hôtel, un motel ou lieu de séjour.

Est-ce une merveille que La société de dialecte américain a choisi «vert» comme quatrième mot le plus important de la décennie?

Measure for Measure *...con't from cover*

It is the amount of waste sent to landfills that has the greatest negative impact on the environment. The objective of an effective waste management program, therefore, is reduce waste by maximizing recycling and composting, and minimizing waste sent to landfill.

In order to understand a hotel's waste stream, detailed measurement is required. One way to accomplish this is to ask your external waste management service provider to provide the required data. The data will need to include actual waste volume, not just the number of bins emptied.

If your external waste hauler is unable to provide this information, fear not. Using Loop's simple system, a hotel can easily track, measure and record their waste output themselves.

STEPS FOR IN-HOUSE WASTE MEASUREMENT

Step 1: Catalogue

- Identify all bins in the hotel and type of waste they contain
- Record the size (volume) of each bin and unit of measurement (e.g. litre, m^3, case of bottles, bale)
- Make note of the density for each type of waste (e.g. kg/litre of food scraps or kg/bale of corrugated paper)

Step 2: Assess

- Track # of times each bin is emptied each week/ month
- Note the percentage fill level for each bin when emptied

Step 3: Calculate

- For each waste container, multiply the volume of waste per category times the density of the waste type (note compacted volumes have higher density numbers). This will determine the volume of waste removed from that bin
- Determine density by weighing contents of a typical bin

Step 4: Report

- Provide waste data to hotel management and green teams for monthly reviews
- Create and post charts and trends that can be shared with employees and guests

Example:
Bin 01 is1,000 L and is filled with food scraps. It is emptied 4 times per week. The density of the waste is 0.90 kg/litre.

Therefore, the waste from Bin 01 can be expressed as:

Formula: Waste (volume) x Density x # empties per week x # weeks in a month = WASTE

Calculation: 1,000 L x 0.90 x 4 empties x 4.3 weeks = 15,412 kg of WASTE per month

Implementing a formal waste measurement process will provide you with the information you need to progress to the next level of waste management. The data you collect can be used to improve your in-house waste management processes, inform your sourcing practices, engage your employees to obtain further buy-in, generate ideas and gain recognition for your sustainability efforts. It will also assist you in starting the necessary conversations with your municipality and/or private waste management service companies to help improve the waste diversion options in your vicinity. In this way, you will also be creating leadership within the industry and your local community.