

<u>Overview</u>

Greening Hospitality – A Guide to Manage Plastic Waste at Small and Medium Hotels in Galle City, Sri Lanka

Matthew Hengesbaugh, IGES 17 June 2025









www.iges.or.jp

Context

- Global hospitality industry facing increasing challenges managing plastic waste
- Sri Lankan tourism sector growing rapidly
- Hospitality industry in Sri Lanka comprised mainly of MSMEs
- <u>Key opportunity: reduce plastic footprint,</u> <u>enhance brand image, improve</u> <u>performance</u>



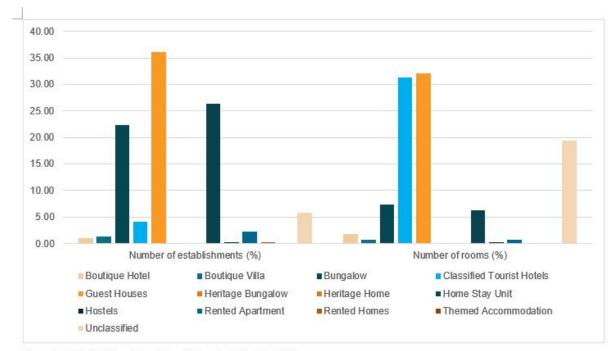


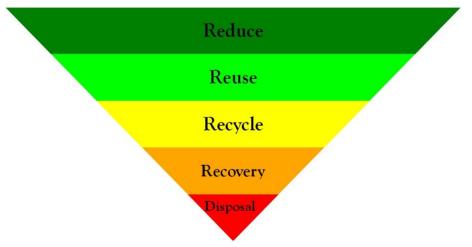
Figure 1: A Distribution of Registered Hotels in Sri Lanka, 2022⁶

Purpose

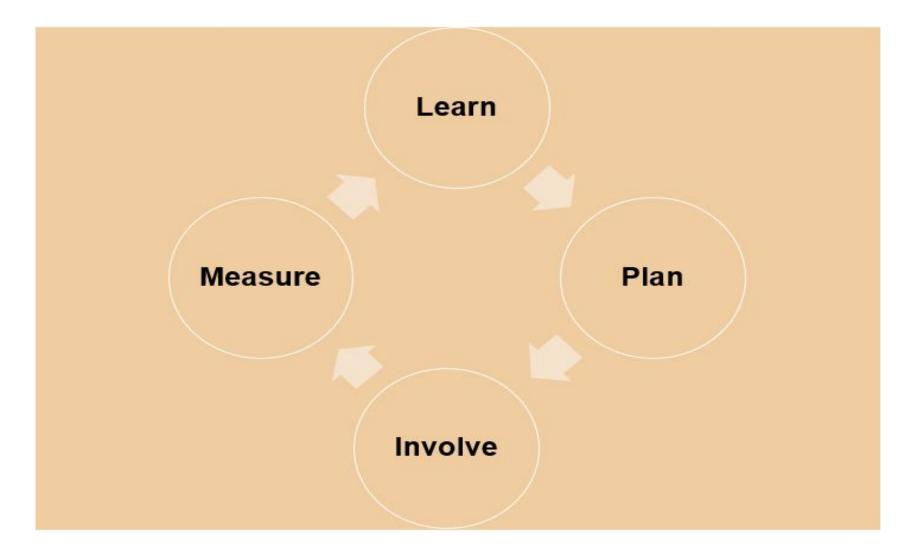
- Selected hotels must demonstrate commitment to sustainable tourism practices
- Guidebook offers detailed information on areas for plastic waste reduction
- Tailored for small businesses with checklists and user-friendly examples
- Support for establishing National Sustainable Tourism Certification (NSTC) scheme



WASTE HIERARCHY



4 Step Approach



Step 1: Learn — Understand Your Plastic Footprint

Table 3: Sample Checklist for Plastic Waste Calculation for Hotels

ltems	Units per month	Weight per unit (kg)	Total weight per month (kg)	Recycled (kg)	Compost ed (kg)	Disposed (kg)
Restaurant/ Cafeteria/ Kitchen						
Plastic bottles <1L						
Plastic bottles >1L						
Liquid bags or pouches						
plastic sealed tea bags						
Coffee cups/sachets						
Milk/creamer in plastic						
Sugar in plastic						
Plastic wrapped snacks						
Plastic straws						
Plastic stirrers						
Single-use plastic cutlery						
Single-use plastic plates or bowls						
Lids for bowls						
Single-use plastic cups						
Lids for cups						
Single-use paper cups						
Cereals in plastic						
Miniature spreads						

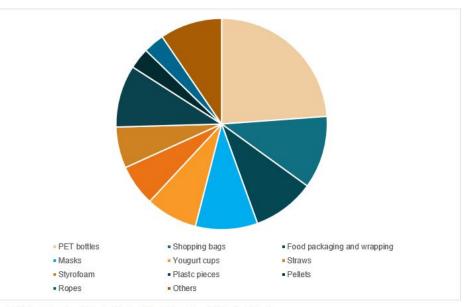


Figure 5: Main Categories of Plastic Waste Collected from Beach Sites in Sri Lanka



Step 2: Plan—Plastic Waste Management Action Plan

Remember:

- Set specific goals
- Include measurable targets
- Define implementation strategy
- Propose timelines

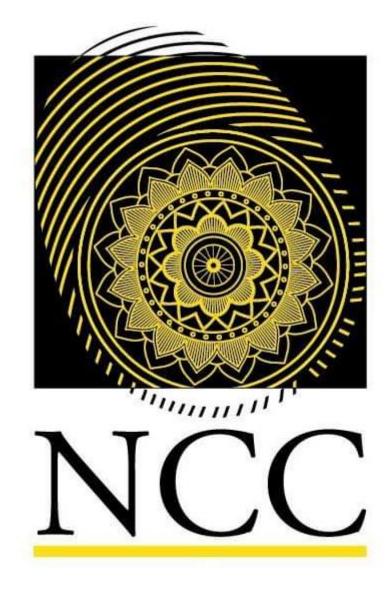


Eliminating plastic straws	100% reduction compared to baseline	Using paper straws	Medium term
Reducing bin liners in rooms	50% reduction compared to baseline	Placing recycling bins in hallways and providing only 1 small residual waste bin per room	Short term
Eliminating disposables	90% reduction compared to baseline	Whilst finishing the stock, identify sources for reusable alternatives or eliminate entirely	Medium term
Eliminate laundry plastic bags	100% reduction compared to baseline	Use of cotton canvas or <u>mesh</u> laundry bags	Long term
Eliminate plastic bathroom amenities like plastic combs, toothbrushes, and ear swabs	100% reduction compared to baseline	Use biodegradable bathroom amenities or save money with eco-friendly alternatives for example bamboo combs, wooden toothbrushes, and wooden ear swabs	Long term
Reducing plastic packaging of toiletries	100% reduction compared to baseline	Considering installing refillable dispensers in every room for shampoo, foam bath, lotion etc	Medium term
Eliminating plastic trash bags	70% reduction compared to baseline	Use of biodegradable trash bags	Medium term
Reducing plastic packaging	90% reduction compared to baseline	Buying ingredients from local markets to reduce plastic packaging when goods are being transported	Medium term

Key Action: Identifying Sustainable Alternatives

Plastic Items	Alternatives available at National Craft Council
Lamp shades	Cane/Wood/Bamboo/Reed/Jaggery palm/ paper products
Baskets (flower/ fruit/ bread)	Cane/Wood/Bamboo/Reed/Jaggery palm/ paper products
File folders/ covers	Cane/Wood/Bamboo/ Jaggery palm products
Dustbins	Reed/cane
Ornaments	Clay/Wood/Brass
Key tags/ display boards	Wood/ Coconut Shells/ Bamboo
Tables/ chairs	Cane/Wood/Bamboo/ Jaggery palm chairs
Tablemats	Cloths mats





Step 3: Involve—Making Partnerships

- Involve staff
- Engage guests
- Collaborate with suppliers







Step 4: Measure — Monitor Progress, Keep Improving

- Regularly monitor and measure plastic reduction progress
- Analyze data to identify areas for improvement
- Communication and experience sharing
- Partner with sustainability platforms



Performance Monitoring Period:							
	Baseline numbers		Impact Audit numbers		Any difference		
	Absolute	Per guest	absolute	per guest	absolute	per guest	
Food and beverage	2						
Units							
Weight							
Bathroom and pers	sonal care						
Units							
Weight							
Housekeeping							
Units							
Weight							
Back office							
Units							
Weight							
Sustainable sourcin	ng						
Recycled content							
Compostable/ren							
ewable							
Total targets from all actions							
Units							
Weight							

Final Takeaways

- Plastic reduction offers an opportunity to enhance your brand and reduce business costs
- Hospitality industry has an important role to play in educating about environmentally-responsible behaviors



 Government can help to incentivize plastic minimization in the hotel industry



Application in Thailand:

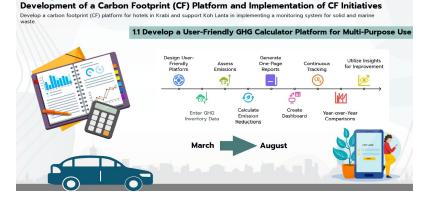
Krabi Sustainable Tourism Partnerships for Integrated Resource Management toward the Sustainable Development Goals

IGES in partnership with Thai Sustainable Consumption and Production Network (Thai SCP Network) and the Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE) under the support of United Nations Environment Programme - International Environmental Technology centre (UNEP-IETC) has initiated a new project on Sustainable Tourism in Krabi with 3 project component.

Component 1 : Develop a carbon footprint (CF) platform for hotels in Krabi and support Koh Lanta in implementing a monitoring system for solid and marine waste

Component 2 : Deliver Green Hotel training and Green Hotel Plus coaching for members of the Krabi Hotel Association to strengthen sustainable hospitality practices for green certification Component 3 : Prepare a Sustainable Development Report in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) standards.

Component 1:



Component 2 :

and onsite learning approaches



Component 3 : Develop Krabi Sustainable Development Report Prepare a Sustainable Development Report in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) standards March – August 3.1 Develop a Reporting Framework aligned with SDGs and GSTC standards Align the report with specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) standards, highlighting Krabi's sustainable tourism practices and key outputs from Components 1 and 2. 3.2 Capacity Building for Local Voluntary Stakeholder Groups to Support the Development of SDG-Aligned Reports Engagement Data Support Training 3.3 Finalize and Publish the Sustainable Development Report for Disse Publish the report in both Thai and English for local and international agencies



Thank You for Your Kind Attention!