

Prevention

Sustainable Tourism

www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

Paphos, Cyprus



Plastics reduction in the hotel industry in Cyprus

Cyprus produces about 570,000 tons of waste annually, 88% of which goes to landfill due to limited recycling facilities on the island. At an individual level, 468kg of solid waste is produced per person in residential areas and 679kg per person in tourist areas indicating that tourists produce more waste than the residents of Cyprus. Much of this waste from tourism is generated within the hotel sector where tourists spend the bulk of their holiday time.



A pilot project was launched in 2010 with three hotels and five self-catering properties in the Paphos area of Cyprus to reduce plastic waste. Due to the initial reduction achieved and the positive engagement of the Tsokkos group to conduct further work, the project was extended in 2011 to larger number of hotels. In collaboration with Cook, hotels within the resorts of Paphos and Ayia Napa/Protaras were identified to be part of the project. The objective was to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated by participating hotels without reducing the quality of the guest experience. A target of 10% reduction in plastic waste across participating hotels was selected based on the preliminary results from the 2010 project in Paphos.

In order to avoid plastic waste the hotels replaced one use plastic cups with multi-use durable cups and bottled water by drinking water dispensers. The use of plastic liners has been improved too by training hotel employees to use plastic liners changing them only when soiled. Other initiatives such as providing straws only when requested from hotel guests or purchasing cleaning materials in bulk and then using refillable dispensers rather than individual packaging allow to limit the amount of plastic waste.

“Changes can be made without impacting negatively on customer experience, provided good communication is in place. In fact, such changes can influence customers’ perceptions of a business in a positive way.”

The Travel Foundation

Hotels saved 19% on the total number of plastic items from the previous season. Concretely 27.5 tons of plastic, equivalent to just over the weight of 26 Toyota Yaris cars, were saved as a result of these initiatives. The hotels achieved a total cost saving of €111,000, while 98% of the customers of the hotels would like to see similar projects implemented in other destinations.

Useful link:

<http://www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk/>

For more information about the project contact:

Julie Middleton

Industry Programmes Manager

E-mail: julie.middleton@thetravelfoundation.org.uk

Andreas Kallis

ATLANTIS Consulting Cyprus Ltd

E-mail: a.kallis@atlantis-consulting.eu

