Waste Management at The Backpack – South Africa

Summary

Being a sustainable accommodation means that we have taken steps to ensure that our hostel is one that has a low impact on the environment and will positively affect employment for locals. Here, at The Backpack, we go to lengths far and wide to try and cut down on waste and to be sustainable in the long run. We think this is vital for all establishments to take on this mentality as it can only deliver positive outcomes in the long run for our people and our planet.

Objectives

Reduce waste at the Hostel

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<th>Economic</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Environmental</th>
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<td>Better revenue</td>
<td>Education for guests</td>
<td>Waste reduction and Recycling, Composting</td>
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Methodology

Here is a brief outline for what we do to make a difference:

♥ We have a Bokashi bin in our kitchen for food waste, which we then take to The Woodstock Peace Garden who use these nutrients for their community garden soil to grow fruit and vegetables. They open their doors to new employees who will gain much insight and opportunities from their experience at the garden.

♥ We have a worm bin where specific vegetable waste that the worms can eat (they are picky eaters) is stored and given to the worms. They then create a wonderful organic fertiliser for our garden here at the hostel. Our gardener, Majid, is employed 3 days a week to take care of the garden’s needs and to ensure our herbs and plants (even a banana tree) are growing generously.

♥ We have labelled bins around the hostel so that guests can contribute to our waste management programs. These labelled bins mean that the guests know exactly which bins to throw different kinds of rubbish into so that it can all be recycled correctly and efficiently. We rely on the services of Recycle 1st to arrive and fetch our recyclable materials for us, where they take it back into their sorting warehouse for further recycling. Their company has in turn grown due to more people recycling and it has gone from 3 sorters to about 10 sorters.

♥ We collect bottle tops in our café/bar area and give these to local artists. They make the most amazing pieces of artwork and sculptures, simply out of these bottle tops and some wires, creating sustainable employment for themselves. We then buy the piece from the artists to support their trade and then resell them in our community shop that we have at the reception desk. And as our demand grows, their work group needs to grow and more artists in the community are given fulfilling jobs.

♥ We have battery bins so that old batteries can be sent to a nearby school to get recycled and reused correctly.
Target audience: HI Members/ Guests/ General Public/ Staff/ Differently abled people/ Children/ Families

Reach: National
Duration: Ongoing, daily

Would you like to know more about this initiative?
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