

The storage and management of Natural Resources: A case study on water and energy usage and management in hotels in Gauteng

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Abstract

The aim of the research study is to analyze with in depth scrutiny the concept of waste in the hospitality industry with particular interest in water and energy, which are natural resources. The study targets to unravel the causes of waste especially of water and energy in the hotels and ways in which it may be decreased for the benefit of the current and coming generation. Hotels are responsible for a significant amount of energy and water consumption on a daily basis not only in the building construction but also due to its establishments where they have installed complicated installations that provide the guest with good quality and high levels of multi- faceted comfort and high class amenities, treatment and facilities. Many services offered by hotels are resources incentive. These resources needed to provide most of the services hotels offer include water, energy and or raw materials and these are utilized in excessive amounts. The guests nowadays are extremely complicated and have high expectations on the hotel they lodged with, these expectations include the actual facility, the services the staff of the hotel offer, the food they provide and the overall experience of the guest in the hotel. These expectations causes significant pressure on the hotel management on what they provide in the hotel and how they continue to remain competitive in the market for their guests. This has a great influence on the escalation of the wastage levels in hotels especially in natural resources such as water and energy. Guests for example required ample amounts hot water to be available in the hotels 24 hours a day 7 days a week, they also expect the air condition to be working at a good temperature all day every day, guests also expect their food to be prepared by master chefs in front of them while they wait and in their specific preference and all these cause very high levels of wastage to be experienced on a daily basis. Hotels are to work out ways to implement day-to day methods that will supply the guests with service that is good enough and yet also ensuring that wastage at all departments is kept on the bear minimum, especially the natural resources (water and energy)

Key words

Natural resources, waste management, conservation, solar power, wind power, hydropower and wave power, geothermal power, biomass and water audits