

National Environment and Planning Agency

Vision

That Jamaica's natural resources are used in a sustainable way and that there is broad understanding of environment, planning and development issues, with extensive participation amongst citizens and a high level of compliance with relevant legislation.

Mission

To promote Sustainable Development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica through highly motivated staff performing at the highest standard.



Managing & Protecting Jamaica's Land, Wood and Water

Source: Environmental Good Practice in Hotels, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) & International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IHRA).

For additional information on how to "green" hotels, contact:

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*Create an Environment
for Clean Living.*

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The National Environment and Planning Agency NEPA

GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES FOR HOTELS



Good Practices

THE PHILOSOPHY

In today's world where we are at risk of losing our natural resources, all hotels need to adopt a policy of conservation and sustainability. Properties should be constructed and managed in a manner that preserves and enhances the environment while serving the public's interest.

WASTE

- Separate, compact and store on site all waste generated by the resort before sending to landfill or for recycling.
- Use both sides of all paper, including stationery, before recycling.
- Compost garbage (mainly fruit and vegetable from the kitchen) and use as fertilizer.
- Sell excess compost to local farmers and encourage them to supply hotels with fruits and vegetables.
- Use leftover juices and wines to make vinegar, which can be used as a cleaning agent.
- Pass used cooking oil through an oil recycler so it can be used in the manufacture of soap.
- Institute a waste separation programme to ensure the separation of: paper, aluminium, organic waste from the kitchen and garden, glass, batteries and other hazardous waste substances.
- Institute a shampoo and soap recycling system, replacing individual bars and bottles with refillable dispensers made out of recycled plastic.
- Use organic fertilizers, natural weed and pest control systems.

ENERGY

- Install air-conditioning units that can be switched on manually.
- Reduce air conditioning load by fitting sun controlled film on all windows.
- Use energy saving light bulbs.
- Replace 60 watt incandescent lamps with 9 watt fluorescent lamps.
- Reduce vehicle use and emissions by setting up a bicycle hiring programme for guests.
- Switch off hot water boilers between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

WATER

- Equip water outlets (taps and toilets) with water saving devices such as low flush toilets.
- Recycle laundry rinse water whenever possible.
- Use washing machines and dishwashers that can operate on low water cycles.
- Collect rainwater and use for many purposes. In an untreated form it can be used for flushing, while water which has been filtered, chlorinated and passed through an ultra-violet filter can be used for cooking and drinking.
- Use wastewater for hotel fountains and landscaping.
- Use plant species that require less water for landscaping.

EMISSIONS

Air-conditioning

- Ensure that the air-conditioning units use environmentally-friendly alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as they cause ozone depletion.

Fire extinguishers

- Replace your traditional halon fire extinguisher at the end of its useful life with a more environmentally friendly alternative. Contact your supplier.

Air quality

- Install ozonizers in guest rooms to improve indoor air quality. These devices break down the oxygen to produce pure oxygen, which removes odour and purifies the air.

PURCHASING

- Adopt a policy to purchase environmentally sensitive products, e.g., items that are recyclable or biodegradable or made from recycled materials.
- Purchase items in bulk to reduce packaging waste.
- Reuse and recycle ink ribbons and cartridges.
- Purchase fewer items that require long-distance transportation thus reducing pollution.
- Use old sheets to make laundry bags thereby replacing plastic bags.
- Reuse containers for storing and holding cleaning liquids.

STAFF

- Train all staff to incorporate environmental housekeeping practices in their daily routines.
- Specially train all engineering and maintenance staff so that they will be actively involved in improving the operating efficiency of all equipment.