



TOWARDS PLASTIC FREE HOSPITALITY

A GUIDE TO MANAGE PLASTIC WASTE AT SMALL AND MEDIUM HOTELS IN SRI LANKA



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of Foreign Affairs



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Environmental Strategies



Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

Towards Plastic Free Hospitality
A Guide to Manage Plastic Waste at Small
and Medium Hotels in Sri Lanka

Ministry of Environment

Sri Lanka

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Towards Plastic Free Hospitality - A Guide to Manage Plastic Waste at Small and Medium Hotels in Sri Lanka

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FOREWORD

Plastic pollution represents a multifaceted environmental crisis with far-reaching implications for ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. As plastics persist in the environment for centuries, they accumulate in our oceans, soil, and air, posing a threat to biodiversity and exacerbating climate change. Effectively managing the plastic problem requires concerted efforts across various sectors, from industry innovation to policy reform and individual action. By prioritizing the reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastics, we can forge a path towards a cleaner and healthier planet for present and future generations.



The Guideline book titled “Towards Plastic Free Hospitality: A Guide to Manage Plastic Waste at Small and Medium Hotels in Sri Lanka” was prepared by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) under the project on “Marine Litter and Microplastics (Norad-1)”.

The purpose of this guideline is to use it as a directive for policy makers, administrators, all the stakeholders and public to empower the Sri Lankans in the Hospitality sector to become responsible and advocates for a plastic waste-free future. This guideline has been prepared using the key steps namely; Learn, Plan, Involve and Measure to empower hotels in effectively managing their plastic waste. Establishing guidelines for the hotel sector to minimize plastic waste is essential due to its significant contribution to pollution. By reducing plastic usage, hotels can attract environmentally conscious guests, save costs, and demonstrate their corporate responsibility. This move aligns with consumer preferences, enhances reputation, and sets industry standards while fulfilling the objective of environmental conservation, cost savings, and leading to more sustainable future.

I am enraptured to share this message upon completion of this guideline which shows clear path to manage plastics which is essential for fostering a sustainable future. I take this opportunity to thank the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), BRS Secretariat and Human and Environment Link Progressive Organization (HELP-O) for their technical and financial support as well as all the staff of the Environment Pollution Control and Chemical Management Division of the Ministry of Environment for their remarkable support in completing this task.

I hope the hospitality community will adhere to this guideline and thus effectively manage plastic waste in the country.

B. K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi

Secretary

Ministry of Environment

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I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. BACKGROUND

The global hospitality industry is at a pivotal juncture, confronting a pervasive challenge — the menace of plastic pollution and marine litter. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) notes that approximately 80 percent of all tourism activities occur in coastal areas, positioning the hotel industry as a significant contributor to the roughly 8 million tonnes of plastic entering our oceans annually¹. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the cost of oceanic plastic pollution exceeds 7 billion euros (EUR)². If current trends persist, the production and incineration of plastic waste are projected to contribute 10 to 13 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions³.

In Sri Lanka, the tourism sector stands as a cornerstone of national economic development, impacting both employment generation and the country’s long-term economic outlook. Despite challenges such as the aftermath of the civil war, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent Easter Sunday attacks, the tourism sector has experienced a significant growth of 27 percent in 2022⁴. As shown in Fig 1, small and medium hotel operators, including guest houses, homestays, and bungalows, collectively comprise the majority of registered establishments, accounting for 36, 26.4, and 22.4 percent respectively⁵.

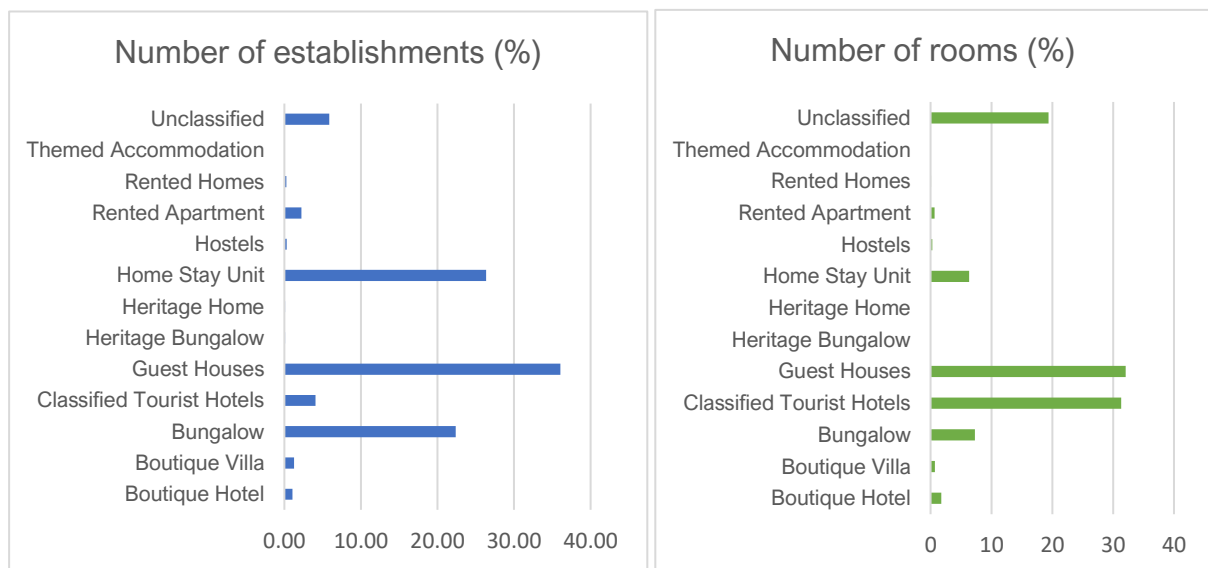


Figure 1: A Distribution of Registered Hotels in Sri Lanka, 2022 (Percentage of number of establishments and number of rooms)

¹ Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI), 2021: GTPI Brochure. https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/from-crm/GTPI%2520Brochure_Final_En.pdf

² WWF. 2029: Solving Plastic Pollution by Accountability.

³ Hamilton, Lisa Anne et al. 2019: Plastic & Climate: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet,

⁴ https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/sites/default/files/cbslweb_documents/publications/annual_report/2022/en/6_Chapter_02.pdf

⁵ SLTDA. Tourism Growth Trends-1985-2022. https://www.sltlda.gov.lk/storage/common_media/Tourism-Growth-Trends-1985-2022.pdf. https://www.sltlda.gov.lk/storage/common_media/Handbook_Eng.pdf

Against the backdrop of increasing environmental awareness and the rapid expansion of the hospitality sector, small and medium-sized hotel operators in Sri Lanka stand at a unique crossroads. Hotel operators in Sri Lanka have the opportunity to substantially reduce their plastic footprint and waste while concurrently enhancing their brand image and improving operational efficiency.

1.2. PURPOSE

Acknowledging the global emphasis on sustainable tourism, the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has launched the National Sustainable Tourism Certification (NSTC) scheme⁶. Specifically designed for small and medium hotel operators, its primary objective is to safeguard Sri Lanka's unique natural and cultural heritage. The NSTC scheme plays a crucial role in Sri Lanka's commitment to achieving balance between environmental, socio-cultural, economic, and other impacts on the local community.

To obtain NSTC certification, hotel operators must demonstrate a clear dedication to environmentally and socially responsible tourism practices. This involves, among others, implementing sustainability actions, maintaining comprehensive documentation and data collection, providing thorough training and education for staff, and actively engaging with local communities and suppliers.

This guide serves as a valuable resource for hoteliers, offering guidance through the intricate process of reducing plastic usage by adopting sustainable alternatives. It also provides insights into ensuring the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of plastic, especially for waste items that are difficult to eliminate. Tailored for small and medium hotel operators, this guide empowers them with essential knowledge and tools to transition towards sustainable practices and minimize plastic usage and waste generation. Embracing sustainability not only contributes to a cleaner environment



Figure 2: A View of Main Street in Galle Fort

⁶ For more information: <https://www.slt-da.gov.lk/en/sustainable-tourism>

and the protection of ecosystems, but also enhances the hotel's brand, attracts eco-conscious guests, and strategically reduces operational costs.

This guide has been developed by the IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET), the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) and HELP-O, a local non-governmental organization (NGO). It is implemented as part of an umbrella project entitled “Marine litter and microplastics: promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of plastic waste’ (BRS-Norad-1), which is being implemented in Sri Lanka and Ghana, and also features global activities. The BRS-Norad-1 project is facilitated by the BRS Secretariat and financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) with additional funding provided by the Government of the Netherlands.

The guide comprises seven sections. Following this brief introduction, Section 2 outlines the key principles and steps involved in managing plastic waste at hotels. Section 3 offers a straightforward guide to kick-start a sustainability journey by conducting a comprehensive plastic audit within hotels. This audit covers areas marked by excessive plastic usage, extending from guest rooms and restaurants to reception and back-of-house operations. Section 4 guides hotels in initiating the development of a customized Plastic Management Action Plan. This involves leveraging their unique capacities and resources, a process detailed further in this section. These action plans are pivotal for hotel operators, providing a structured approach to establish clear targets and measures for reducing plastic usage and effectively managing plastic waste. Section 5 underscores the importance of forming partnerships with staff, guests, and suppliers for the successful implementation of the plastic waste reduction action plan. Regularly monitoring and measuring the progress of plastic reduction initiatives, based on the developed action plan, is crucial, as outlined in Section 6. Finally, Section 7 concludes by identifying a range of supportive national activities and policies for small and medium hotel operators. These initiatives aim to assist them in their efforts to reduce plastic usage, promote sustainability, and contribute to a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly tourism sector.

2. MANAGING PLASTIC WASTE AT HOTELS

2.1. KEY PRINCIPLES

The following principles provide a strategic framework for minimizing plastic use and effectively managing plastic waste within hotels (Fig 3). This involves upstream initiatives targeting the prevention of plastic waste generation through reduce and reuse methods, integrating sustainable alternatives. Simultaneously, downstream efforts concentrate on ensuring proper plastic waste management through recycling and employing appropriate treatment and final disposal methods.

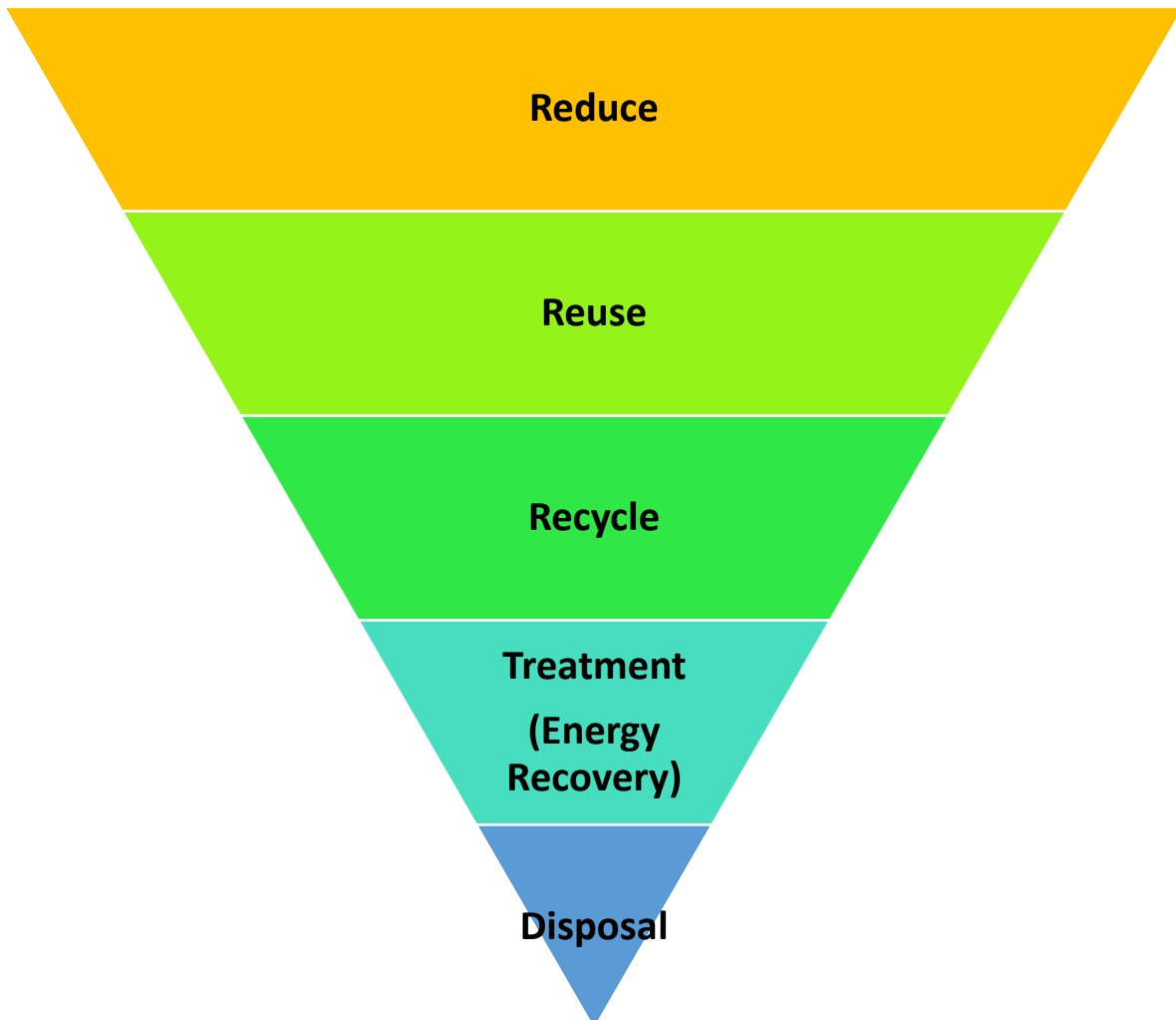


Figure 3: A Hierarchy of Sustainable Plastic Waste Management at Hotels

2.2. KEY STEPS TO MANAGING PLASTIC WASTE AT HOTELS

Reducing plastic use and effectively managing plastic waste can be particularly challenging for small and medium-sized hotels working to efficiently manage plastic waste. These challenges arise from limitations in knowledge, awareness, capacities related to prevention planning and identifying sustainable alternatives, financial considerations, limited supplier options, data management and monitoring, waste management infrastructure, and the adoption of effective communication strategies. To address these challenges, we propose a four-step approach designed to empower hotels in effectively managing their plastic reduction efforts as shown in Fig 4. This action plan also serves as a strategic preparation for hotels aiming to attain the National Sustainable Tourism Certification (NSTC) scheme.

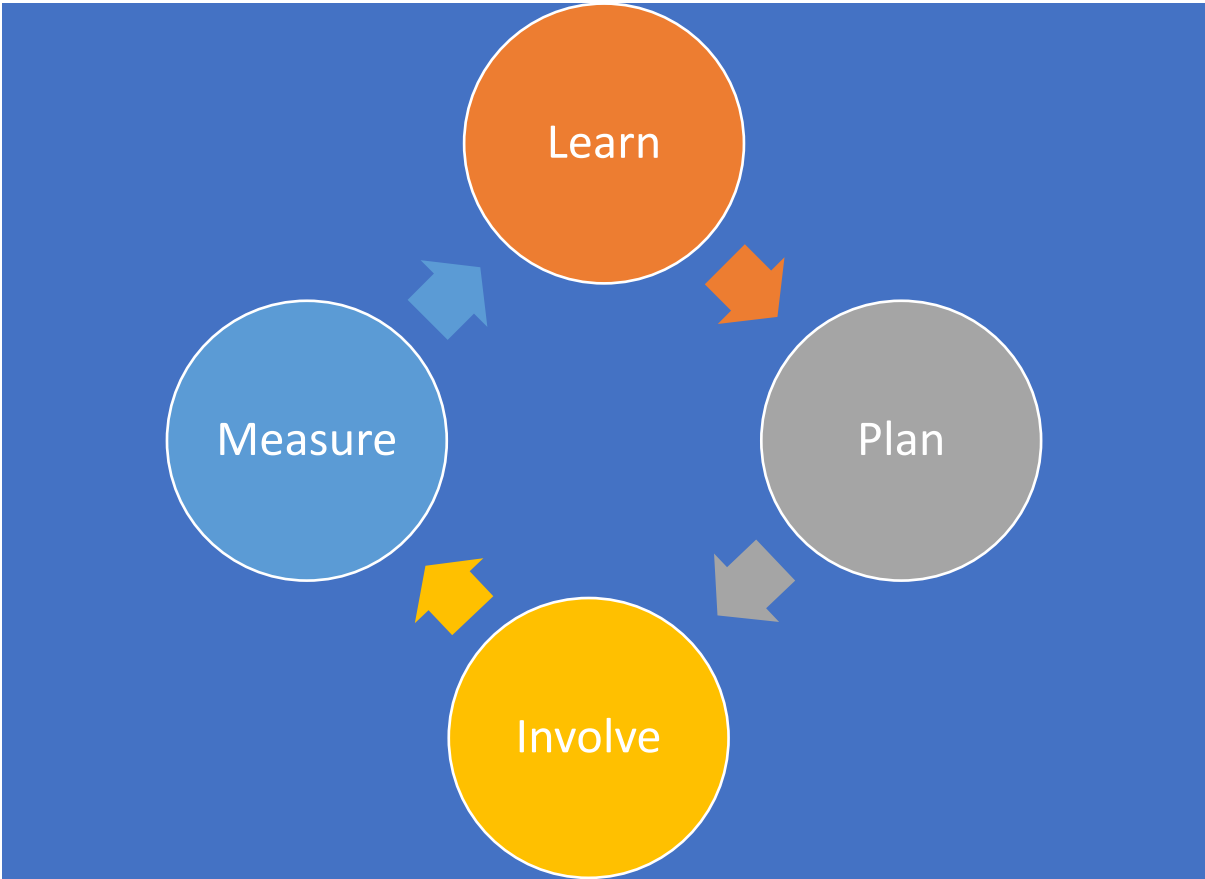


Figure 4: Four-step Plan to Manage Plastic Waste at Hotels

3. LEARN – UNDERSTAND YOUR PLASTIC FOOTPRINT

3.1. ISSUE OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic pollution poses a significant threat to our planet, contaminating our oceans, causing harm to marine life, and contributing to global warming⁷. The enduring damage on ecosystems is exacerbated by the persistence of plastic waste, which takes hundreds of years to fully decompose. Globally, an estimated 310 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated annually, equivalent to 2,200 plastic bottles for every individual⁸. Recent studies have found that seas and oceans currently contain approximately 86 to 150 million tonnes of plastic⁹, with an additional 8 million tonnes entering the marine environment every year¹⁰. A substantial 80 percent of this pollution originates from land¹¹. The top 10 plastic products most commonly found on beaches include, but are not limited to, cigarette butts, food wrappers, and beverage bottles (Table 1).

Table 1: Top 10 Plastic Products Most Commonly Found on Beaches¹²

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Beverage bottles, caps and lids | 6. Plastic bags |
| 2. Cigarette butts | 7. Cutlery, drinking straws, and stirrers |
| 3. Cotton swabs | 8. Cups and lids |
| 4. Bags and packaging for chips and sweets | 9. Balloons and balloon holders |
| 5. Hygiene products (wet wipes, tampon etc.,) | 10. Food packaging |

Notably, in Sri Lanka, the use of cotton swabs, cutlery, drinking straws, and stirrers made out of plastic which are single-use has already been banned. Furthermore, the production and use of single-use plastic food containers, plates, cups, spoons, food wrappers (lunch sheets from polythene), and grocery bags/ shopping bags (any bag of high-density polyethylene) are prohibited in the country under the Gazette Notifications 2034/34, 2034/35, and 2034/38 (more information see Annex 8.1). Nevertheless, a recent sample study conducted in 56 locations across the country to assess the composition of plastic waste in different areas determined that a number of banned materials are still being used and disposed of. PET bottles emerged as the most prevalent, constituting the highest percentage at 23.8 percent, particularly on Sri Lankan beaches¹³. Common

⁷ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103692>

⁸ WWF (2019): Solving Plastic Pollution by Accountability.

⁹ <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/>

¹⁰ Jambeck et al. (2015): Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, Science (347),

¹¹ <http://plastic-pollution.org/>, accessed on 3.11.2019

¹² <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/stop-flood-plastic-effective-measures-avoid-single-use-plastics-and>

¹³ Rangika Bandara and Yohan Mahagamage (2023): Less Plastic Movement – National Campaign 2023. Presentation made at the Workshop on Basel Amendments and Plastic Inventory on 14 June 2023

items found on beaches mainly include shopping bags, food packaging and wrappings, yogurt cups, and straws, as illustrated in Figure 5.

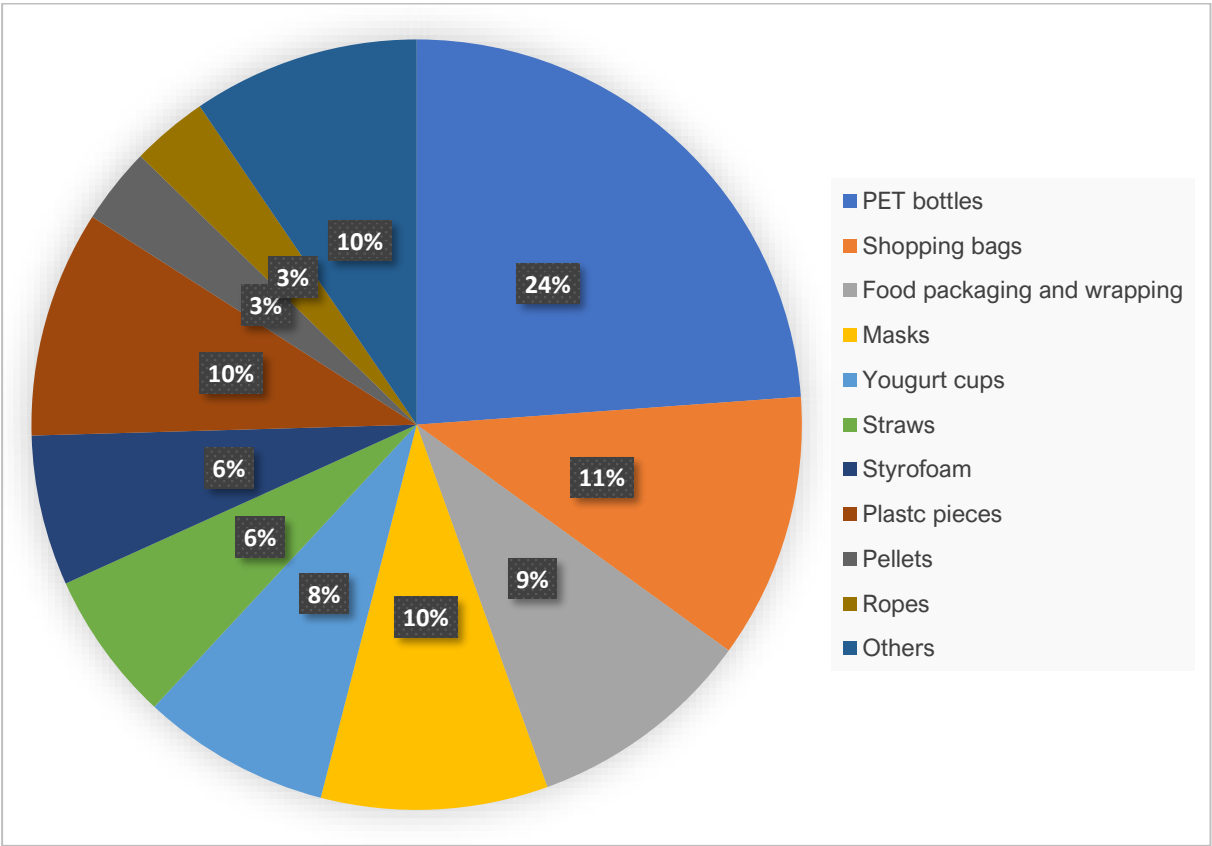


Figure 5: Main Categories of Plastic Waste Collected from Selected Beach Sites in Sri Lanka

3.2. UNDERTAKE A SELF-ASSESSMENT OF YOUR PLASTIC FOOTPRINT

Initiate your sustainability journey by conducting a comprehensive plastic audit within your hotel. Identify areas marked by excessive plastic usage, spanning from guest rooms and restaurants to reception and back-of-house operations. Table 2 shows the key departments and breakdown of commonly used plastic items in the hotels.

Table 2: Popular Plastic Usage in Key Departments/Sections of Small-Medium Hotels in Galle City, Sri Lanka¹⁴

| Department | Popular types of plastic products |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Lobby/ Front Desk | Flower baskets/ Table mats/ Dust bins/ Ornaments/ Pens/ Writing pads/ Key cards |
| Restaurants/ Cafeteria/ Kitchen | Ashtrays/ Tissue holders/ Plates/ Baskets/ Water bottles/ Other Drinking Bottles/ Straws/ Mixing sticks/ Dust bins/ Toothpick holders/ Table mats/ Cups/ Paper & Salt filters/ Trays/ Flower pots/ Pens/ Menus / Shopping bags/ Packaging/ Food items |
| Guest Rooms | Dustbins/ Water bottles/ Wrapped plastic cups/ Hangers/ Tissue holders/ Table mats/ Spoons & Forks/ Pens/ Boxes/ Keys/ Key holders/ Sign boards/ Lamps/ Ornaments/ Cups/ Trays/ Laundry bags/ Slippers/ Hotel directory/ Communication materials |
| Washrooms | Dustbins/ Sanitary boxes/ Shampoo kits/ Shaving kits/ Tissue holders/ Soap boxes/ Tooth brush kit/ Cups/ Shower kits |

Table 3 gives a sample checklist to collect data on your current plastic consumption to establish a baseline, enabling effective tracking of progress during implementation of reforms. When entering the data, it is important to follow these steps to capture relevant information about your plastic consumption:

- **Daily/Weekly/Monthly Purchases:** Input the *frequency of your purchases*, whether it's on a *daily, weekly, or monthly* basis. For each purchase frequency, *record the quantity* of plastic items acquired.
- **Items per Case:** *Specify the number* of plastic items contained in each case or packaging unit. This information helps *quantify the scale* of plastic usage.
- **Units per Month:** Calculate the *total number of units* consumed in a month by *multiplying the purchase frequency by the items per case*. This provides an overview of your monthly plastic consumption.
- **Weight per Unit:** *Record the weight* of each plastic item in standard units (e.g., grams, kilograms). This information contributes to understanding the overall weight of plastic used.
- **Volumes of Recycled or Compostable Materials:** If applicable, *document the quantities* of plastic items that are recycled or composted. This reflects your sustainability efforts and progress in adopting environmentally friendly practices.
- **Consistent Updates:** Regularly *update the spreadsheet* to maintain an accurate and up-to-date record.

¹⁴ For more information: <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/partnership-reduce-plastic-use-tourism-sector-galle-srilanka/en>

Table 3: Sample Checklist for Plastic Waste Calculation for Hotels

| Items | Units per month | Weight per unit (kg) | Total weight per month (kg) | Recycled (kg) | Composted (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 | | | | | | |
| Pastry roundels | | | | | | |
| Sauces in plastic sachets | | | | | | |
| Cling film roll | | | | | | |
| Single-use plastic deli containers | | | | | | |
| Other single-use plastic packaging | | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | | |
| Washroom and Personal Care | | | | | | |
| Miniature body lotion | | | | | | |
| Miniature conditioner | | | | | | |
| Miniature shampoo | | | | | | |
| Miniature soap | | | | | | |
| Soap bar | | | | | | |
| Toothpaste | | | | | | |
| Toothbrush | | | | | | |
| Plastic cotton buds | | | | | | |
| Plastic packaging for slippers | | | | | | |
| Other plastic packaging in bathroom | | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | | |

| Items | Units per month | Weight per unit (kg) | Total weight per month (kg) | Recycled (kg) | Composted (kg) | Disposed (kg) |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Guest Room/ Housekeeping | | | | | | |
| Detergent refill packaging | | | | | | |
| Detergent bottles <1L | | | | | | |
| Detergent bottles >1L | | | | | | |
| SUP trigger spray tops for detergents | | | | | | |
| Plastic laundry bags | | | | | | |
| Bin liners | | | | | | |
| Gloves | | | | | | |
| Single-use hygiene wipes | | | | | | |
| Other plastic packaging in housekeeping | | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | | |
| Lobby/ Front Desk/ Back Office | | | | | | |
| Key cards / wrist bands | | | | | | |
| Plastic binders / insert cases | | | | | | |
| Pencils | | | | | | |
| Souvenirs or giveaways | | | | | | |
| Other single-use plastic packaging | | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | | | | | |

4. PLAN – PREPARE A PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

4.1. MEASURES TO MANAGE PLASTIC WASTE

After establishing a comprehensive plastic use and waste inventory, hotels can initiate the development of a tailored Plastic Management Action Plan, leveraging their unique capacities and resources. These action plans are pivotal for hotel operators, providing a structured approach to establish clear targets and measures for reducing plastic usage and effectively managing plastic waste, as detailed in Table 4. When crafting these action plans, it is imperative to consider the following key points:

- **Specific Goals:** Clearly define the specific objectives the hotel aims to achieve in terms of plastic reduction.
- **Measurable Targets:** Identify measurable targets aligned with the established objectives. Acknowledge any existing goals or targets set by national or local governments or within the hotel industry sector to ensure alignment with broader sustainability initiatives and/or regulations.
- **Implementation Strategy:** Outline a practical and feasible strategy for achieving the defined objectives and targets, considering the unique context and operational aspects of the hotel.
- **Timeline:** Determine the timeframe within which these objectives and targets should be realized, providing a clear roadmap for implementation and monitoring.

Table 4: Setting Specific Goals, Targets, Strategies and Timeline – A Sample Framework

| Specific Goals | Measurable Targets | Implementation Strategy | Expected timing |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Restaurant/ Cafeteria/ Kitchen | | | |
| Eliminating plastic straws | 100% reduction compared to baseline | Using paper straws | Medium term |
| Eliminating disposables | 90% reduction compared to baseline | Whilst finishing the stock, identify sources for reusable alternatives or eliminate entirely | Medium term |
| Eliminating plastic trash bags | 70% reduction compared to baseline | Use of reusable cloth 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 |
| Guest Room/ Housekeeping | | | |

| Specific Goals | Measurable Targets | Implementation Strategy | Expected timing |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Eliminate laundry plastic bags | 100% reduction compared to baseline | Use of cotton canvas or mesh laundry bags | Long 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 |
| Eliminate plastic bathroom amenities like plastic combs, toothbrushes, and ear swabs | 100% reduction compared to baseline | Use environment friendly 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 rubber mates in bathtubs | 100% reduction compared to baseline | Use of wooden beads | Long term |
| Lobby/ Front Desk/ Back Office | | | |
| Eliminating plastic key cards | 100% reduction compared to baseline | Update to mobile keyless entry | Long term |
| Eliminating plastic stationery | 100% reduction compared to baseline | Use of pencils and metal rulers in office | Medium term |
| Reducing hard copies in the office | 50% reduction compared to baseline | Recycling in the office or use of soft copies and drives for storage | Short term |
| Reduce hazardous chemicals to environment | 70% reduction compared to baseline | Use of Bio-friendly chemicals | Medium term |

4.2. UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM MEASURES

In addressing the multifaceted challenge of plastic waste, hotels can strategically employ a range of Upstream and Downstream Strategic Measures as summarized below.

Upstream Measures

Upstream, the focus is on prevention, with an emphasis on reducing and reusing. Hotels can identify and minimize unnecessary plastic products, particularly single-use items, striving to diminish or eliminate their presence. Reusable alternatives, such as cups and cutlery, can also be explored, although careful consideration is given to their environmental footprint (Fig 6).

- **Reduce:** Identify and minimize the utilization of plastic products, including single-use items, that are deemed unnecessary. When feasible, strive to diminish or completely eliminate their use in hotel operations.

- **Reuse:** Instead of throwing plastic after single use, explore opportunities to replace disposable plastic items with reusable alternatives. For example, consider adopting reusable glass/ceramic cups or metal cutlery to minimize dependence on single-use items. However, it's essential to recognize that in specific instances, certain alternatives may have a larger overall environmental footprint across the life cycle when compared to corresponding plastic items



Figure 6: Use of reusable materials at the hotels

Downstream Measures

- **Recycle:** Prioritize materials that can be recycled for items that must remain in hotel operations.
- **Local Waste Regulations Compliance:** Familiarize yourself with and adhere to the specific rules and protocols set by national and local authorities for recycling and the safe disposal of non-recyclable plastics, thereby avoiding any legal or environmental repercussions (Annex 8.2).
- **Segregation and Identification:** Establish an effective waste segregation system at the source to accurately identify recyclable and non-recyclable plastics. Clearly label bins or containers to distinguish between recyclable and non-recyclable materials, ensuring that both staff and guests are well-informed.
- **Explore Alternative Treatment Methods:** Investigate alternative treatment approaches, including waste-to-energy technologies (such as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) or Incineration) with energy recovery. While these methods require careful consideration of emissions, they may offer a sustainable option for managing specific non-recyclable plastics.

- **Final Disposal:** Proper treatment and final disposal of plastics that cannot be recycled are crucial components of a comprehensive waste management strategy.



Figure 7: Municipal Waste Collection service in Galle City

4.3. PRIORITIZE THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To prioritize strategic objectives and ensure practical implementation based on the unique capacities and resource availability of hotels, Table 5 provides a sample evaluation checklist based on five key criteria. This evaluation tool aids hotels in assessing the feasibility and impact of each objective, allowing for a tailored and effective approach to plastic reduction efforts.

Table 5: A Sample Checklist of Evaluation Criteria to Priorities the Strategic Objectives

| Criteria | Description | Valuation Indices |
|---|--|--|
| Urgency to change | e.g. upcoming legislation, complaints, hazardous, self-motivation | 1 (no urgency) to 5 (very urgent) |
| Necessity of the item(s) | e.g. you need a cup to drink, but not necessarily the lid or straws | 1 (item is necessary to 5 (unnecessary item) |
| Financial impact | e.g. purchasing cost, cost for service, maintenance cost | 1 (expensive replacement) to 5 (less expensive or profitable) |
| Volume (Impact) | How much plastic volume can be avoided?/ How big is the impact? | 1 (small volume) to 5 (large volume) |
| Availability of sustainable alternatives | Are sustainable alternatives available in your region? Or Can easily access? | 1 (no local availability/ hard to find) to 5 (locally available/ easy to find) |

To effectively utilize the evaluation criteria provided in Table 5, follow these steps:

- **Actionable Goals:** Begin by recording the actionable goals formulated previously into the table.
- **Scoring:** Assign scores to each goal across all criteria using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 signifies low priority, and 5 denotes high priority. Consider the following criteria: Urgency to change, Necessity of the items, Financial impacts, Volume (Impact), and Availability of Sustainability Alternatives.
- **Prioritization:** Prioritize goals with the highest overall scores in your strategy. High-scoring goals are those that are easy to implement in the short term, have a substantial volume or impact, are urgent, and are financially attractive. Goals with medium scores are suitable for mid-term implementation, while those with low scores may require further consideration due to factors such as unavailability, high investment costs, or small volume, making them suitable for mid-to-long-term implementation.
- This approach ensures a strategic and nuanced prioritization of goals based on their feasibility and impact, considering the specific context of each hotel (Table 6).

Table 6: A Sample of Multi-Criteria Scoring on Actionable Goals

| Actionable goals | Urgency to change | Necessity of the item(s) | Financial impact | Volume | Availability of alternatives | Total score |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Reducing dustbins & bin liners | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 15 |
| Eliminating disposables | 5 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 21 |
| Reduce disposable bathroom & personal care products | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 15 |
| Reduce in room Food and Beverage products | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Reduce use of plastic stationary | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| Reduce Single-use plastic in the Kitchen | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 11 |
| Eliminate plastics items in floor area and open areas | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Introduce recycling opportunities | 5 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 |

4.4. IDENTIFYING SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES

Hotels possess a significant opportunity to substitute Single-Use Plastic Products (SUPPs) with more sustainable alternatives, prioritizing reusability and minimizing environmental impacts across their life cycle. Sri Lanka, enriched with a heritage of crafting essential daily-life products, has historically relied on traditional craft items as a crucial component of its economy. While these traditional crafts may have lost their value and the popularity in the market, ongoing initiatives seek to revive and promote them.

The National Crafts Council, established by the Parliamentary Act No. 35 of 1982, plays a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship and markets for traditional craft products. Encouraging innovative designs and ideas, the council trains craftspeople to think differently, producing alternative products that contribute to the preservation of handicrafts and uplift the social and economic status of craftspeople. Table 7 showcases some sample alternatives available at the National Craft Council, contributing not only to reduced plastic usage but also celebrating and preserving Sri Lanka's rich heritage of traditional craftsmanship. Annex 1 provides a more detailed list of alternative products for plastic use in hotels.

Table 7: Plastic Items and Their Alternatives Available at the National Craft Council, Sri Lanka¹⁵

| 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 |



Figure 8: Use of Craft Products at Hotels

Although alternative products exist in the market, they are often not locally available, posing accessibility challenges. Additionally, these alternatives tend to be more expensive than their plastic counterparts. Despite the cost-effectiveness of single-use plastic, a thorough evaluation through Life-Cycle Assessments (LCA) demonstrates potential cost savings and sustainability benefits associated with adopting alternative solutions. LCA involves assessing the environmental impact of a product or service throughout its entire life cycle, from raw material extraction to disposal. This analytical tool provides valuable insights into the overall environmental footprint of plastic usage. The following estimations in Fig 9 highlight the potential savings achievable through the use of sustainable alternatives. For example, hotels can save up to €4,475 a year and reduce CO2 emissions by 1,497 kg by opting for refillable bottles with filtered tap water instead of single-use plastic bottles¹⁶.

¹⁵ <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/partnership-reduce-plastic-use-tourism-sector-galle-srilanka/en>

¹⁶ https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/from-crm/Futouris%2520Plastic%2520Guide_compressed.pdf

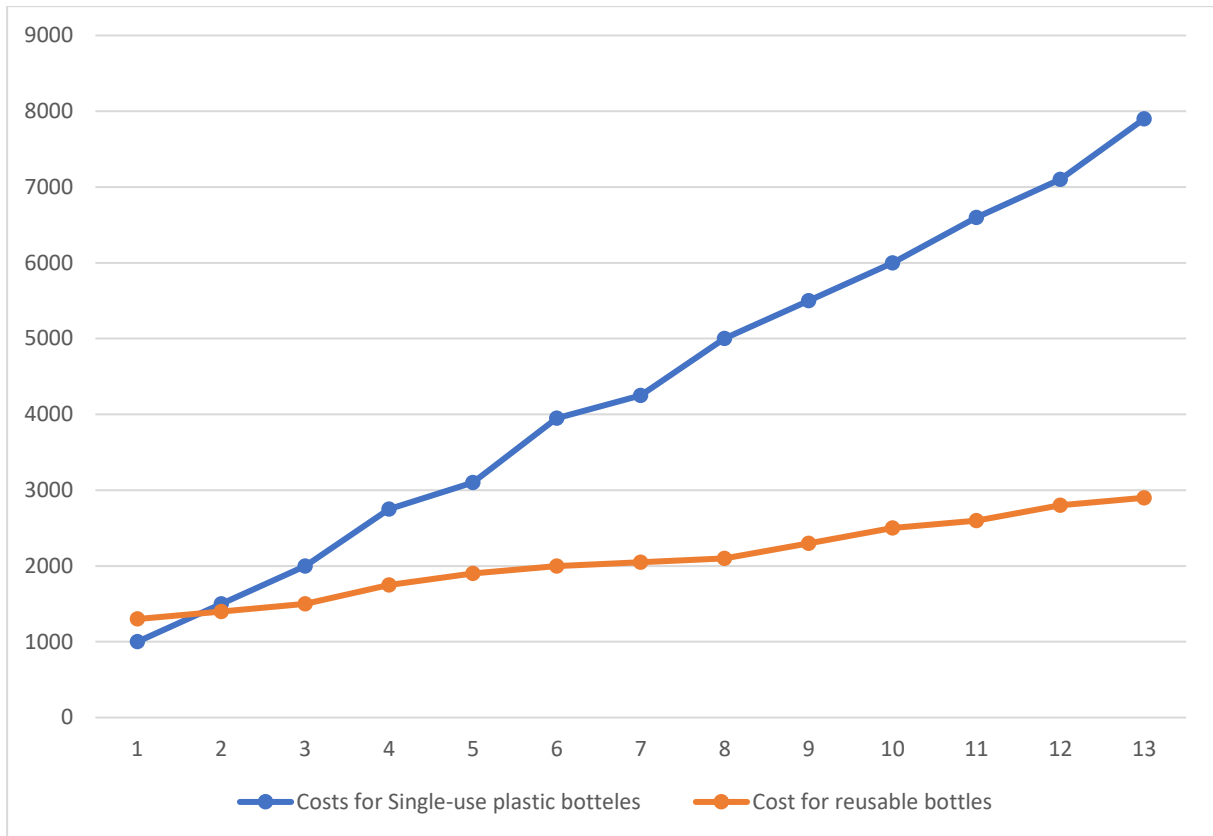


Figure 9: Single use water bottles Vs Reusable bottles (50 bottles per day)¹⁷

Note: (i) Cost reduction = Euro 4,475/year, (ii) Waste material reduction = 100% and (iii) Climate impacts = 1,497 CO₂ reduction

¹⁷ https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/from-crm/Futouris%2520Plastic%2520Guide_compressed.pdf

5. INVOLVE – MAKING PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. INVOLVE STAFF

Engaging your staff in sustainability mission is crucial for successful implementation of the plastic waste reduction action plan. Train them on the significance of reducing plastic waste and adopting sustainable alternatives. Encourage them to lead by example and advocate these practices to guests. Effective plastic management action plans require that all hotel staff comprehend their roles, actively participate in identifying strategies and interventions, and possess the capacity and motivation to achieve desired results.

Some Hints to Involve the Staff:

- **Regular Staff Meetings:** Convene regular staff meetings to discuss progress, address challenges, and establish fundamental principles (e.g., no plastic bags, no single-use plastic bottles) for every employee to follow.
- **Educational Workshops:** Conduct workshops to enhance understanding of sustainability concepts and share success stories from within the industry.
- **On-the-Job Training (OJT):** Implement on-the-job training where experienced employees mentor newer staff in sustainability practices. This can be especially effective for understanding the practical application of reducing plastic waste in their specific roles.
- **Site Visits:** Organize visits to recycling centers or sustainable facilities to provide firsthand exposure to the waste management process and reinforce the importance of their role.
- **Guest Engagement Training:** Provide guidance on engaging and advising guests regarding the effective implementation of the action plan.
- **Incorporate Sustainability Goals in Performance Reviews:** Align sustainability goals, including plastic waste reduction, with individual and departmental performance reviews. This integration emphasizes the organizational commitment to sustainability.
- **Certification Programs:** Offer certification programs related to sustainability and plastic reduction. Employees can complete these programs to enhance their knowledge and skills, and the certifications can be recognized and rewarded by the hotel.
- **Collaboration with Environmental Organizations:** Collaborate with environmental organizations to provide specialized training sessions. These organizations often have specific programs designed for educating the hospitality industry on sustainable practices.



Figure 10: Training sessions to introduce alternative products to hotel staff

5.2. INVOLVE THE GUESTS

Effectively communicating your sustainability efforts to guests is crucial. This includes integrating information into guest welcome packets, explaining your commitment to reducing plastic waste. Additionally, highlight your sustainable practices on your website, social media, and in-room materials. Transparency regarding hotel goals, principles, and management efforts to reduce plastic waste inspires guests to actively contribute.

Some Hints to Involve the Guests:

- **Interactive Platforms:** Utilize interactive platforms like social media to share real-time updates and engage with guests on sustainability initiatives.
- **Interactive Displays:** Implement interactive displays in common areas to showcase your efforts and educate guests about sustainable practices.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Encourage guest feedback and suggestions to continuously improve sustainability initiatives.
- **Educational Signage and Materials:** Display informative signs, brochures, or information cards in guest rooms, lobbies, restaurants, and other common areas. These materials can educate guests about the hotel's sustainability goals, the importance of reducing plastic use, and how they can contribute.

- **Welcome Letters or Packets:** Include a welcome letter or packet in guest rooms that outlines the hotel's commitment to sustainability, including its plastic reduction efforts. Encourage guests to participate and explain how they can support these initiatives during their stay.
- **Promotions and Incentives:** Offer promotions or incentives to guests who actively participate in sustainability efforts. For example, a discount on future stays, complimentary amenities, or a tree planted in their name for supporting the hotel's sustainability goals.
- **Participation Contests:** Organize contests or challenges where guests can participate by suggesting innovative ideas to reduce plastic usage. Reward the best ideas with prizes, creating a fun and engaging way to involve guests.
- **In-Room Recycling Program:** Implement an in-room recycling program and provide clear instructions to guests on how they can separate recyclables from general waste, promoting responsible waste management.
- **Green Guest Pledges:** Encourage guests to take a pledge for eco-friendly practices during their stay. Provide a platform, either online or in-person, where they can commit to reducing plastic use and other sustainable actions.
- **Collaboration with Local Environmental Organizations:** Partner with local environmental organizations to conduct informative sessions for guests, discussing plastic pollution and the importance of responsible tourism. This can include presentations, workshops, or interactive sessions.
- **Collaborative Community Projects:** Initiate community projects in collaboration with guests, such as beach cleanups or tree planting events, where they can actively participate and contribute to the local environment.

5.3. INVOLVE THE SUPPLIERS

Sourcing plastic-free products is a critical step in your sustainability journey. Start by assessing your current supplier's offerings. If they don't have suitable alternatives, explore online options or inquire with local suppliers for recommendations. Collaborate with local suppliers to purchase in bulk, driving down costs.

Some Hints to Involve the Suppliers:

- **Supplier Communication and Education:** Regularly communicate with suppliers regarding your sustainability goals, including plastic reduction. Educate them on the environmental impact of plastic and your hotel's commitment to minimizing it.
- **Sustainable Sourcing Requirements:** Establish clear sustainability criteria for your suppliers, including a preference for products with minimal or no plastic packaging. Make these requirements a part of your procurement contracts.

- **Supplier Code of Conduct:** Develop a supplier code of conduct that includes guidelines on sustainable practices, including reducing plastic use. Encourage suppliers to adhere to these guidelines in their operations and product packaging.
- **Collaborative Workshops and Seminars:** Organize workshops or seminars where you invite suppliers to discuss sustainable practices, especially related to reducing plastic. Provide them with information on alternative packaging options and best practices.
- **Preference for Plastic-Free Products:** Clearly express a preference for products that have minimal or no plastic packaging when placing orders. Make it known that you prioritize suppliers who align with your sustainability goals.
- **Incentives for Plastic Reduction:** Offer incentives, such as longer-term contracts or preferred supplier status, to suppliers who actively reduce or eliminate plastic from their products or packaging.
- **Supplier Feedback and Idea Sharing:** Encourage suppliers to provide feedback and ideas on how your hotel can further reduce plastic use in its operations. Create a channel for ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

6. MEASURE – MONITOR PROGRESS AND KEEP IMPROVING

6.1. MONITORING PROGRESS

Regularly monitor and measure the progress of your plastic reduction initiatives based on the developed action plan. Analyze the data collected during your plastic audit to identify areas of success, as well as those requiring improvement. Understand the impact of the changes you've implemented and take stock of whether they align with your goals for reducing plastic usage.

Ways to Monitor Progress:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Track the reduction of specific plastic items over time to accurately quantify your progress. Table 8 provides a sample performance monitoring checklist.
- **Feedback from Staff:** Engage your staff to gather insights into the effectiveness of new practices and areas that need refinement.
- **Customer Feedback:** Solicit feedback from guests to gauge their perceptions of your sustainability efforts and identify potential areas for enhancement.
- **Benchmarking:** Compare your hotel's plastic reduction efforts with industry benchmarks at the national/global level and best practices to assess your progress and identify areas for improvement.

Table 8: Sample Performance Monitoring Checklist

| Performance Monitoring Period: | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | Baseline numbers | | Impact Audit numbers | | Any difference | |
| | Absolute | Per guest | Absolute | Per guest | Absolute | Per guest |
| Food and beverage | | | | | | |
| Units | | | | | | |
| Weight | | | | | | |
| Bathroom and personal care | | | | | | |
| Units | | | | | | |
| Weight | | | | | | |
| Housekeeping | | | | | | |
| Units | | | | | | |
| Weight | | | | | | |
| Back office | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Units | | | | | | |
| Weight | | | | | | |
| Sustainable sourcing | | | | | | |
| Recycled content | | | | | | |
| Compostable/renewable | | | | | | |
| Total targets from all actions | | | | | | |
| Units | | | | | | |
| Weight | | | | | | |

6.2. COMMUNICATION AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

Consistently communicate your experiences and overall achievements in reducing plastic waste with the staff, guests and the wider audience. Sharing success stories and lessons learned can inspire other hotels and businesses to embark on similar sustainability journeys. Consider leveraging various platforms to disseminate this information, including social media, industry conferences, and sustainability forums.

Ways to Share:

- **Case Studies:** Develop case studies that outline your journey, challenges faced, and successful outcomes, and share them on relevant platforms.
- **Collaborate with Hotel Industry Networks:** Engage with industry networks to share your experiences during webinars, workshops, or conferences dedicated to sustainability in hospitality.
- **Leverage Social Media:** Utilize social media platforms to regularly update your audience on milestones achieved and lessons learned.
- **Visual Dashboards:** Create visual dashboards displaying key plastic reduction metrics for easy monitoring and understanding by stakeholders.

6.3. PARTNER WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORMS

Collaborate with national and international tourism platforms leading sector-wide initiatives to combat plastic pollution. By participating in endeavours like the UN Tourism (UNWTO) International Tourism Plastic Pledge and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, you can access valuable resources, share best practices, and contribute to a collective effort to reduce plastic usage in the tourism industry.

Benefits of Joining Platforms:

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Gain access to the latest research, best practices, and innovative solutions for reducing plastic use in the hospitality sector.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals, organizations, and experts in the field, fostering collaboration and idea sharing.
- **Visibility and Recognition:** Showcase your commitment to sustainability and gain recognition for your efforts on a broader scale.
- **Sustainability Certifications:** Pursue sustainability certifications that include criteria related to plastic reduction. Compliance with these certifications indicates progress in sustainability efforts¹⁸



Figure 11: Small entrepreneur making alternatives for single-use plastic products

¹⁸ For further information: (I) Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority's Online Registration Portal: <https://www.sltta.gov.lk/en/register-with-us>; (II) Asian Ecotourism Standard for Accommodations (AESAs): <https://www.asianecotourism.org/ecotourism-standard>; (III) Hotel sustainability Certifications: <https://sustainablehospitalityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Certifications-factsheet.pdf>; (IV) Global Tourism Plastics Initiative: <https://www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/global-tourism-plastics-initiative>

7. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, embracing sustainable practices and minimizing plastic usage in your hotel not only demonstrates environmental responsibility but also serves as a means to enhance your brand and reduce operational costs. The potential impact is substantial, leading to the reduction of packaging volumes and the elimination of unnecessary single-use plastic products. Concurrently, hotel operators have the opportunity to educate guests and communities on environmentally responsible behavior, fostering a collective effort to reduce plastic waste in the environment. By applying this guide, hotel operators can take immediate actions to mitigate plastic waste in their operations, contributing to a greener future while delivering exceptional hospitality experiences. To facilitate and incentivize small and medium hotel operators in their quest to reduce their plastic footprint, government agencies can implement a range of supportive activities and policies. Here are key initiatives that governments can introduce, significantly aiding small and medium hotel operators in their efforts to reduce plastic usage, promote sustainability, and contribute to a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly tourism sector.

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to educate hotel operators and the public about the environmental impact of plastic pollution and the benefits of reducing plastic usage.
- **Regulatory Framework:**
 - Plastic Use Regulations: Enforce regulations limiting or banning certain single-use plastics in the hospitality sector, such as plastic straws, bags, and cutlery.
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Implement EPR policies, holding producers accountable for product lifecycles and encouraging reduced plastic use and proper disposal.
 - Deposit-Return Systems: Introduce systems incentivizing the return and recycling of plastic bottles and containers.
- **Financial Incentives and Grants:**
 - Grants for Sustainable Initiatives: Provide financial incentives to hotels implementing sustainable practices and effectively reducing plastic usage.
 - Tax Benefits: Offer tax incentives to hotels significantly reducing plastic waste and adopting sustainable alternatives.
- **Capacity Building and Training:**
 - Training Programs: Organize programs and workshops for hotel operators, educating them on sustainable practices and alternatives to plastic use.
 - Technical Support: Provide technical support to help hotels transition to sustainable alternatives and manage plastic reduction initiatives effectively.

- **Research and Development Support:**
 - Funding for Research: Allocate funds for research and development of sustainable alternatives to plastics tailored for the hospitality industry.
 - Collaboration with Institutions: Collaborate with research institutions to develop innovative solutions for reducing plastic usage in hotels.

- **Recognition and Awards:**
 - Sustainable Tourism Awards: Establish awards for hotels demonstrating exceptional efforts in reducing their plastic footprint and adopting sustainable practices.
 - Sustainable Certification Programs: Encourage hotels to obtain certifications promoting sustainable practices, including reduced plastic usage.

- **Partnerships and Collaboration:**
 - Public-Private Partnerships: Encourage collaboration between the government, private sector, and non-profit organizations to reduce plastic waste in the hospitality sector.
 - Industry Associations Involvement: Collaborate with industry associations to promote and advocate for reduced plastic usage within the sector.

- **Waste Management Infrastructure:**
 - Recycling Facilities: Invest in or provide incentives for the establishment of recycling facilities catering to the needs of hotels and other hospitality businesses.

- **Market Access and Promotion:**
 - Promote Sustainable Suppliers: Create a platform or database of sustainable product suppliers, making it easier for hotels to source sustainable alternatives to plastic

8. ANNEXES

8.1. A LIST OF REGULATIONS ON POLYTHENE AND PLASTIC MANAGEMENT

| Gazette Number | Description |
|--|---|
| 1466/5 Microsoft Word - Regulations on Polythene.doc (cea.lk) | <p>With effect from 1st of January 2007, prohibit-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the manufacture of polythene or any polythene product of twenty (20) microns or below in thickness for in country use; and (ii) the sale or use of polythene or any polythene product which is twenty (20) microns or below in thickness. <p>For the purposes of this Order, “Polythene” means any solid products, bags, material or contrivances manufactured using all forms of polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, poly vinyl chloride, polyethylene terephthalate or any other similar raw material used for the purpose of carrying, packing, wrapping or packaging.</p> |
| 2034/33 PG 3676 (E) I - I- Gove. Noti.pmd (cea.lk) | <p>1. Prohibit -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the manufacture of polythene or any polythene product of twenty (20) microns or below in thickness for in country use; or (ii) the sale, offer for sale, offer free of charge, exhibition or use of polythene or any polythene product which is twenty (20) microns or below in thickness within the country. <p>Provided that polythene or any polythene product of twenty (20) microns or below in thickness may be permitted to be used with the prior written approval of the Authority for the purposes specified in the Schedule hereto.</p> |
| 2034/34 PG 3677 (E) I - I- Gove. Noti.pmd (cea.lk) | <p>Prohibit the activities specified in Schedule hereto Activities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the manufacture of food wrappers from polythene as a raw material for in country use; and (ii) the sale, offer for sale, offer free of charge, exhibition or use of food wrappers manufactured from polythene as a raw material within the country. <p>For the purposes of this Order-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “food wrappers” means lunch sheets. • “Polythene” includes high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene and polypropylene |

| Gazette Number | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>2034/35 PG 3678 (E) I - I- Gove. Noti.pmd (cea.lk)</p> | <p>Prohibit the activities specified in Schedule I hereto and exempt the items specified in Schedule II hereto. Schedule 1: Activities :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) manufacture of any bag of high-density polyethylene as a raw material for in country use; and (ii) sale, offer for sale, offer free of charge, exhibition or use of any bag manufactured from high density polyethylene as a raw material within the country. <p>For the purposes of this Schedule bags manufactured from high density polyethylene as a raw material, means bags of any dimension with or without handles for the purpose of carrying products or goods and includes grocery bags generally referred to as “sili - sili bags”.</p> |
| <p>2034/36 PG 3679 (E) I - I- Gove. Noti.pmd (cea.lk)</p> | <p>Regulations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Environmental (Prohibition of open burning of refuse and other combustible matters inclusive of plastics) - Regulations No. 1 of 2017. 2. No person shall burn openly or cause to, allow or permit the open burning of refuse or other combustible matters inclusive of plastics. 3. Any person who fails to comply with the regulations above shall be liable to an offence and punishable under Section 31 of the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980 |
| <p>2034/37 PG 3680 (E) I - I- Gove. Noti.pmd (cea.lk)</p> | <p>Prohibit the use of all forms of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene products or polypropylene products as decoration in political, social, religious, national, cultural or any other event or occasion.</p> |
| <p>2034/38 PG 3681 (E) I - I- Gove. Noti.pmd (cea.lk)</p> | <p>Prohibit the activities specified in Schedule hereto: Activities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the manufacture of food containers, plates, cups and spoons from expanded polystyrene for in country use; and (ii) the sale, offer for sale, offer free of charge, exhibition or use of food containers, plates, cups and spoons manufactured from expanded polystyrene within the country. <p>For the purposes of this Order-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “food containers” means lunch boxes |

| Gazette Number | Description |
|--|--|
| <p>2211/51 PG 5278 (E).pub (cea.lk)</p> | <p>With effect from March 31st, 2021, prohibit the use of:</p> <p>A) Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material for packing agrochemicals used for any process, trade or industry; and</p> <p>B) any plastic item specified herein for any process, trade or industry:</p> <p>(i) Sachets having less than or equal to a net volume of 20ml/ net weight of 20g (except for packing food and medicines).</p> <p>(ii) Inflatable toys (except balloons, balls, water floating/pool toys and water sports gear).</p> <p>(iii) Cotton buds with plastic stems (except plastic cotton buds used for medical/clinical treatment).</p> <p>For the purposes of this Order-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “agrochemicals” means all chemicals used in Agriculture including Pesticide, growth regulators, liquid fertilizer; • “plastic item” means a product manufactured using polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, polystyrene, biodegradable plastic or any other similar raw material or any mixture thereof; • “process” includes manufacturing; and • “trade” includes sale and offer for sale. |
| <p>2341/30 Scanned Image (cea.lk)</p> | <p>Prohibit the use of the following plastic items and the use of the said items in any process, trade or industry for in country use, with effect from October 01, 2023,</p> <p>(i) Single-use drinking-straws and stirrers.</p> <p>(ii) Single-use food containers, plates, cups, spoons, forks and knives, except in air travels.</p> <p>(iii) Garlands,</p> <p>(iv) String hopper trays.</p> <p>For the purposes of this Order-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “cups” includes drinking cups but does not include yoghurt cups; • “food containers” means the meal boxes manufactured from expanded polystyrene for in country use, • “plastic” means all forms of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), high density polyethylene (HDPE), low density |

| Gazette Number | Description |
|----------------|--|
| | <p data-bbox="683 230 1382 383">polyethylene (LLDPE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, biodegradable plastic or any other similar raw material or any mixture thereof,</p> <ul data-bbox="635 409 1382 730" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="635 409 1114 441">• “process” includes manufacturing; <li data-bbox="635 468 1358 539">• “single-use” means a product designed or intended to be used once, before being disposed off; <li data-bbox="635 566 1345 638">• “straw” means all straws including straws attached to products; and <li data-bbox="635 665 1372 736">• “trade” includes importation for local use, sale, offer for sale, display for sale, offer free of charge or to exhibit. |

8.2. A LIST OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

| |
|--|
| Constitution of Sri Lanka ,1978 |
| Penal Code Act No. 2, 1883 (as last amended) |
| Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15, 1979 |
| Import & Export Control Act No. 1 of 1969 (as amended 16 July 2020) |
| Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLP) Act No. 51, 1979 |
| The National Environmental Act (NEA) No. 47, 1980 |
| The Environmental Protection License (EPL) under the provisions of the National Environmental Act No. 47, 1980 |
| The Environmental Impact Assessment under the National Environmental Act No: 47, 1980 |
| National Environmental (Ambient Air Quality) Regulations, 1994 |
| Regulations for the Management of Hazardous Waste, 1996, (amended in 2008) |
| National Environmental Policy (NEP), 2022 |
| Cleaner Production Policy, 2004 |
| Marine Pollution Prevention Act No.2, 2008 |
| Environment Conservation Levy, 2008 |
| National Environmental (Protection & Quality) Regulation No. 01, 2008 |
| National Green Reporting system (NGRS), 2011 |
| Plastic Ban of 2017 [Gazette Notification No. 2034/33, 2034/34, 2034/35, 2034/37, 2034/38, 2034/36 of 1 September 2017 |
| National Sustainable Consumption & Production Policy, 2019 |
| Vehicle import regulations (air pollutant emissions): 2018. Gazette Notification No. 2079/42 dated 12.07.2018 |
| National Policy on Waste Management, 2020 |
| National Policy on Management of Chemicals, 2023 |
| National Environmental (Plastic Material Identification Standards) Regulations No. 01, 2021 |
| National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management 2021-2030. |
| Order (under section 23W(1)(a): prohibit the use of PET or PVC material for packaging agrochemicals used for any process, trade or industry; Sachets having less than or equal to a net volume of 20ml/ net weight of 20g (except for packing food and medicines); Inflatable toys (except balloons, balls, water floating/pool toys and water sports gear) and Cotton buds with plastic stems (except plastic cotton buds used for medical/clinical treatment). |

8.3. A LIST OF ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE FOR PLASTIC PRODUCTS AT THE NATIONAL CRAFT COUNCIL, SRI LANKA (SEPTEMBER, 2023)¹⁹

| Plastic Items | Existing Alternatives | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Lobby/ front desk | | | | | |
| Flower baskets | Papers/ Bamboo |  |  |  |  |
| | | | SLR-24467 (690 Rs) | KISK-32701 (1,950 Rs) | (690 Rs) |
| Table mats | Palm/ Coconut/ Flax/ Vatakeyi a |  |  |  |  |
| | | DWTC-36602 (650 Rs) | HGW-43004 (9,150 Rs) | NBND-2407 (310 Rs) | RKKW-887 (260 Rs) |
| Dust bins | Palm | | | |  |
| | | | | | New arrivals |
| Orna ments | Coconut shell/ Clay |  |  |  |  |
| | | GVSN-39004 (1,200 Rs) | GK-14605 (580 Rs) | RMP-90722 (1,500 Rs) | RMP-30720 (2,850 Rs) |
| Pens/ Pencils | Paper/ Wooden | |  |  |  |
| | | | SLR-24464 (140 Rs) | SRW-19507 (120 Rs) | KAG-8722 (680 Rs) |
| Writing pads | Wooden/ Paper | | |  |  |
| | | | | KAG-8718 (650 Rs) | KAG-8720 (3,450 Rs) |

¹⁹ For more information and prices: <https://craftscouncil.gov.lk/>

| Plastic Items | | Existing Alternatives | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Key Tags | Wooden/ Bamboo/ Coconut shell |  |  |  | |
| | | | AMDN-9738 (130 Rs) | MDWP-2561 (130 Rs) | MDWP-2561 (130 Rs) |
| File folders/ covers | Cane/ Palm | | |  |  |
| | | | | (1,800 Rs) | |
| Table/ chairs | Wood/ Bamboo/ Cane |  |  |  | |
| | | | | | |
| Restaurants/ Cafeteria/ Kitchen | | | | | |
| Ashtray | Ceramic/ clay/coc onut shell |  |  |  |  |
| | | ISUW-0527 (360 Rs) | ISUW-0526 (340 Rs) | WVIPK-13139 (980 Rs) | PHKP-29510 (720 Rs) |
| Tissue holders | Palm/ Cane | |  |  |  |
| | | | AWTC-36509 (1,500 Rs) | GK-14603 (800 Rs) | SRV-12004 (290 Rs) |
| Plate | Coconut shell/ clay/ ceramic |  |  |  |  |
| | | (1,500 Rs) | PHKP-2999 (590 Rs) | KAHDL-30018 (2,700 Rs) | MD-11601 (130 Rs) |
| Baskets | Cane/ bamboo/ paper |  |  |  |  |
| | | SRL-24460 (1,220 Rs) | NCCHOWAWP (3,640 Rs) | KS-27801 (2,600 Rs) | SLR-24460 (1,220 Rs) |

| Plastic Items | | Existing Alternatives | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Water bottles | Ceramic/ clay/ bamboo |  |  |  |  |
| | | ISUW-0542 (2,630 Rs) | KHIRW-19802 (1,780 Rs) | KHIRW-19801 (1,890 Rs) | |
| Other drinking items | Clay |  |  |  |  |
| | | JUGS-ADIM-44608 (608 Rs) | ADIM-44601 (210 Rs) | WVIPK-13108 (1,430 Rs) | ISUW-0540 (2,400 Rs) |
| Straws | Bamboo | | |  |  |
| | | | | | |
| Mixing sticks | Bamboo/ wood | |  |  |  |
| | | | KAHDL-30015 (980 Rs) | KAHDL-30010 (1,500 Rs) | |
| Cups | Clay |  |  |  |  |
| | | ADIM-44603 (180 Rs) | ADIM-44606 (150 Rs) | (240 Rs) | ABIM-44610 (190 Rs) |
| Paper and salt filters | Coconut shell | | | |  |
| | | | | | ALTC-32011 (830 Rs) |
| Trays | Clay/ bamboo | | |  |  |
| | | | | | RMP-30715 (6,750 Rs) |

| Plastic Items | | Existing Alternatives | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Flower pots | Clay |  |  |  |  |
| | | | | | ADIM-44612 (280 Rs) |
| Shopping bags | Palm/ cloths/ slack/ cane |  |  |  |  |
| | | | (1,300 Rs) | (1,500 Rs) | (1,050 Rs) |
| Guest rooms | | | | | |
| Spoons/ Forks | Wooden/ bamboo/ coconut shell |  |  |  |  |
| | | KAHDL-30016 (1,050 Rs) | KHDL-30013/30014 (600 Rs) | KAHDL-70011 (1,280 Rs) | |
| Key holders | Bamboo/ wooden |  |  |  |  |
| | | | ALTC-32015 (630 Rs) | SCDPS-16103 (1,040 Rs) | |
| Lamp shade | Bamboo/ cane/ palm/ ceramic |  |  |  |  |
| | | | | ISJWU-528 (4,280 Rs) | KLSCS-8601 (2,860 Rs) |
| Washrooms | | | | | |
| Soap boxes | Coconut shell/ clay |  |  |  |  |
| | | | | New arrival | MWVCD-67703 (3,900 Rs) |
| Tooth brush kit | Bamboo/ stone |  |  |  |  |
| | | | | | PGK-38803 (1,880 Rs) |



FURTHER INFORMATION

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

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