

## **3.6.1 Hospitality Industry: General Operations**

*Tip Sheet #1*

**WASTE ORIGIN:** Food Preparation, Office Operations, Property Maintenance

**WASTE TYPES:** Shipping/Packing Materials, Food Scraps, Food and Drink Containers, and Yard Wastes (Grass Clippings, Leaves, Sticks, and Brush)

### **WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING METHODS:**

- ! **Office operations** can reduce or eliminate waste from the start:
  - ! Choose suppliers who provide **recyclable packaging** and packaging that has recycled content in it; reuse shipping/packing materials;
  - ! **Improve purchasing and inventory management** to prevent overstocking supplies that will not be used within one month, or may have limited shelf life;
  - ! Remove company name from **direct-mail** lists;
  - ! Make **double-sided copies**; reduce number of paper copies of receipts; use recycled copy and register papers;
  - ! Buy products or materials with **recycled content**; reuse materials that would have been disposed of after one use;
  - ! Buy in **bulk quantities** when appropriate;
  - ! Refuse to buy meat boxed in **non-recyclable wax-coated corrugated cardboard**;
  - ! Encourage all employees to get involved in **waste reduction programs**; use incentives to involve employees, and encourage suggestions to improve programs.
- ! **Make recycling easy** for staff and patrons by:
  - ! Providing **separate bins for trash**, one for paper/cardboard, and one for mixed recyclables:
    - ! Create a **list of waste items**, laminate it, and hang it in clear view to tell staff or patrons the exact destination of every item.
  - ! Place **recycling bags** in patrons' rooms or cabins; provide appropriate recycling bins on resort grounds, hotel, or motel lobbies;
    - ! A **clear recycling bag** for aluminum cans on the cabin porch; two bags in the kitchen, one for trash and one for recyclables.
- ! Sell **reusable cups or mugs** advertising your business and offer discounts to patrons who bring them in for fillups.
- ! Use **cloth** napkins and tablecloths, **reusable flatware**, and dishes when possible instead of disposable paper or plastic.
- ! **Basic changes in food service** operations can reduce or eliminate many wastes:
  - ! Reduce the size of **paper napkins**;
  - ! Use **paper carry-out** containers;
  - ! Install **customer pumps** for ketchup and other condiments to reduce waste of packets;
  - ! Buy **thinner straws** to limit plastic waste;
- ! **Food scraps** can be ground up in food mulchers and given or sold to farmers for composting to reduce disposal costs.
- ! **Join forces with business neighbors** to cooperatively haul trash and recyclables. Sharing the

same trash and recycling bins and disposal costs saves everybody money and promotes cooperation.

- ! **Donating usable wastes and recyclables** to community groups fosters goodwill, protects the environment, and is a positive marketing strategy:
  - ! **Donate** recycled aluminum cans to a school's environmental awareness program; the money can go to hire speakers who teach students about the environment.
- ! **Think landscaping, not landfilling** when grooming property:
  - ! Grass clippings can be run through a *mulching mower* and left on the ground;
  - ! Branches and downed trees can be run through a *wood chipper* and used as mulch in flower beds or spread along trails.
- ! Contact **local and state government agencies** specializing in waste reduction and recycling:
  - ! Many *solid waste management programs* at the state and municipal level can provide financial or technical assistance in establishing a specific waste recycling program.
- ! **Recycling markets directories and materials exchanges** programs can help find local, state, regional, or national networks to sell, barter, or buy surplus products and unspent materials.
- ! Place an **ad in the local newspaper** for excess or salvage materials.

**Source:**

Fact Sheet: *Eat, Drink, Sleep and Recycle: How the Hospitality Industry Cuts Waste*, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Solid Waste Recycling Section, PUBL IE-203 95.