

ECO-FRIENDLY HOTEL: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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According to the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, tourism accounts for about 5 % of global greenhouse gas emissions – this figure is expected to grow by 130 % by 2035.¹ In this regard, such issues as energy conservation, reducing the negative impact of chemical products, proper waste disposal, and the use of biodegradable materials in daily activities have become acute for the modern hotel business.

An eco-friendly hotel is a means of accommodation located in a park, forest or mountain area, in harmony with the surrounding landscape, built from local natural and safe materials in a traditional architectural style for this area, equipped with all available means of saving resources and waste disposal.

In order to develop tourism and preserve the environment in the Republic of Belarus, it is allowed to create a new eco-friendly hotel containing six key points. Among them there are the location of the hotel, construction, water supply, energy saving, waste recycling, food.

The location of the hotel must be observed by the following parameters: the presence of a large area near a reservoir and surrounded by forests away from factories, the presence of fertile soil.

Construction implies a building constructed entirely from recycled materials. As eco-friendly wall building materials, it is proposed to use clay and silicate bricks made from a mixture of natural components, and natural stone. The decoration of the rooms is made of recycled wood, the roof is equipped with reflective materials and solar panels. In addition, paints based on natural resins, oils, clay with the addition of pigments of earthy and vegetable origin will be used among the finishing materials. To reduce energy costs, a lot of glass was used during construction: huge windows provide natural lighting.

The installation of its own water treatment system on the territory of the hotel will allow the use of wastewater and the reuse of water that has already been used for any needs.

Rainwater harvesting technology. The use of atmospheric precipitation will provide significant savings in water extracted from a well or well. In addition, it will help to reduce energy consumption, as it allows you to turn

¹ Green Lodging Trends Report (2017). URL: greenlodgingnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Green-Lodging-TrendsReport-2017_Final.pdf

on pumping equipment less often. The main purpose of the drainage system is to collect the maximum amount of rainwater and move it to the storage tank. Furthermore, the liquid is used for various household needs: washing, cleaning, watering.

Among the eco-technologies that will help significantly reduce environmental damage, the following can be distinguished: light, motion and rain sensors; energy saving and recycling water supply systems; solar panels on the roof of the hotel.

The use of advanced lighting technology (energy-saving lamps, lighting systems, fluorescent lamps) allows you to save up to 60 % of electricity. Energy-saving lamps definitely have a lot of advantages: they are economical, work much longer, do not heat up, and are more optimal for indoor plants. Their service life is 6 times longer than an incandescent lamp, consumption is 5 times lower. During operation, the light bulb pays for itself 8-10 times.

Energy can not only be saved, but also generated. For example, to equip a fitness room with such simulators, practicing on which people will be able to generate energy and use it in the future.

Sorting garbage is one of the most important parts of maintaining the environment. Separate garbage collection allows you to separate recyclable waste from non-recyclable waste, as well as to identify separate types of waste suitable for secondary use. In this regard, special equipment for collecting separate garbage should be located on the territory of the hotel, which will subsequently be sent for recycling. In addition, it is allowed to abandon plastic in favor of using glass bottles.

In order to minimize spending on the purchase of food for cooking, its own farm can be built. Here clean, eco-friendly, and most importantly natural food products will be grown.

Greens and vegetables for the restaurant can be grown by hydroponics. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil, in which the plant receives all the necessary nutrients from the solution in the right quantities and exact proportions (which is almost impossible to do with soil cultivation). This technology will save about a third of the volume of water that could be used for irrigation.

Summing up the above, the construction of eco-hotels or the reorientation of existing hotels into eco-friendly ones solves such multi-level tasks as:

- improving the image, uniqueness of the region and the country;
- promotion of a healthy lifestyle and agitation for the preservation of the environment;
- ensuring resource savings;
- formation of the market of environmental products and services.

Thus, the proposed hotel will be a good choice for both foreign tourists and citizens of the Republic of Belarus. The COVID-19 pandemic causes an urgent need to refuse to travel abroad and implies the choice of domestic tourism. The proposed eco-hotel will use rule 4R: Reduce – Reuse – Recycle – Replace. Thanks to this, 30 % of hotel waste will be disposed of and recycled. An eco-hotel equipped with the above characteristics will be able to influence the preservation of the environment and save money.

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COSMETICS TESTING; ALTERNATIVE METHODS

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Have you ever wondered how cosmetic products are tested on animals? If you think that people just apply eyeliner or mascara on animal's lashes or paint little cute rabbit's lips, then you are wrong. In fact, cosmetic testing on animals is a terrifying act of violence due to which animals suffer and frequently even die. That's why our research was aimed at finding safe, ecological friendly ways of testing cosmetic products.

WHAT COSMETICS TESTS ARE PERFORMED ON ANIMALS?

Although they are not required by law, several invasive tests are performed on rabbits, mice, guinea pigs and rats. These can include:

- Skin and eye irritation tests where chemicals are rubbed onto the shaved skin or dripped into the eyes of restrained rabbits, without any pain relief.
- Tests that deliver doses of chemical substances to mice through repeated force-feeding. These tests last weeks or months so researchers can look for signs of general illness or specific health hazards such as cancer or birth defects.
- Widely condemned “lethal dose” tests, in which rats are forced to swallow large amounts of chemicals to determine the dose that causes death.

At the end of the tests, the animals are killed, normally by asphyxiation, neck-breaking or decapitation. Pain relief is not provided.

ARE THERE OTHER ARGUMENTS AGAINST TESTING ON ANIMALS?

Yes. Animal tests have scientific limitations because animals often respond differently than humans when exposed to the same chemicals, leading to inaccurate estimates of real-world hazards to people.