

Environmental and Social Commitment in Aitken Spence Hotels – an Overview

Design phase

Design will minimize the energy use of the development through use of intelligent / green building design and will specify the use of wood from renewable sources. Buildings are to be designed to blend in with natural surroundings.

Construction phase

Minimization of clearing vegetation, locally modify design to allow trees to remain in place

Construction noise will be attenuated and mitigated. Using low emissions vehicles during construction and reduce transport by proper planning; eco techniques will be utilized to optimum.

Operational phase

Structure

Hotels management have introduced 5S to all the hotels to ensure successful implementation of all management systems including the Environmental Management System (EMS).

These goals are to be achieved through the EMS that is integrated with the Operational Management System (OMS). The success of EMS depends on achieving and maintaining a 100% environmental awareness among employees that is effectively being attempted through in-house and outside training.

The EMS is set up in each hotel implemented by the Environment Committee (EC) of each hotel. The EC consists of employees who are from different levels who share a common concern for the environment, called 'Champions'. An EC is headed by Environmental Management Representative who is also a volunteer.

Process

An Environmental & Social Responsibility Policy is initially set up to cover requirements for the two certifications, Green Globe 21 standard and ISO 14001 standard.

Employees will identify environmental impacts and aspects, to eventually make up an inventory. The EC and the Environment Management Representative (EMR) will rank them according to significance after which a few significant aspects are identified.

For each significant aspect the EC sets an objective (qualitative) and targets (quantitative) to be achieved during the next time period (usually a year). Programmes to achieve these goals will be implemented under the principle cycle of Plan, Do, Check & Act (PDCA)¹. A structured monitoring system is operated by trained internal auditors.

An annual Management Review evaluates performance, analyses audit reports and decides on next year's objectives.

When we are able to ensure that the EMS is effectively in place we would go for certification which will be conducted by independent certifiers to judge our hotels against the standards.

The hotels continuously pursue a policy, wherever possible, of going above and beyond the industry best practices and legal requirements. Furthermore, an emergency preparedness and response plan is in place.

Solid and liquid waste management

Waste generated is sorted out at the origin and not at the end of the pipeline, using the "3R" principles (reduce, re-use, re-cycle) of the Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit 1992.

- Re-use stream
- On site recycling stream
- Off site recycling stream
- Composting stream

Waste water management and disposal plan:

- maximize the re-use of wastewater through treatment plants
- Store and utilize rain water

We have extended our environmental commitment to all 5 hotel locations in the Maldives.

¹ PDCA is known as the Deming Cycle- a set of activities designed to drive continuous improvement.

Operational Structure at Hotels

