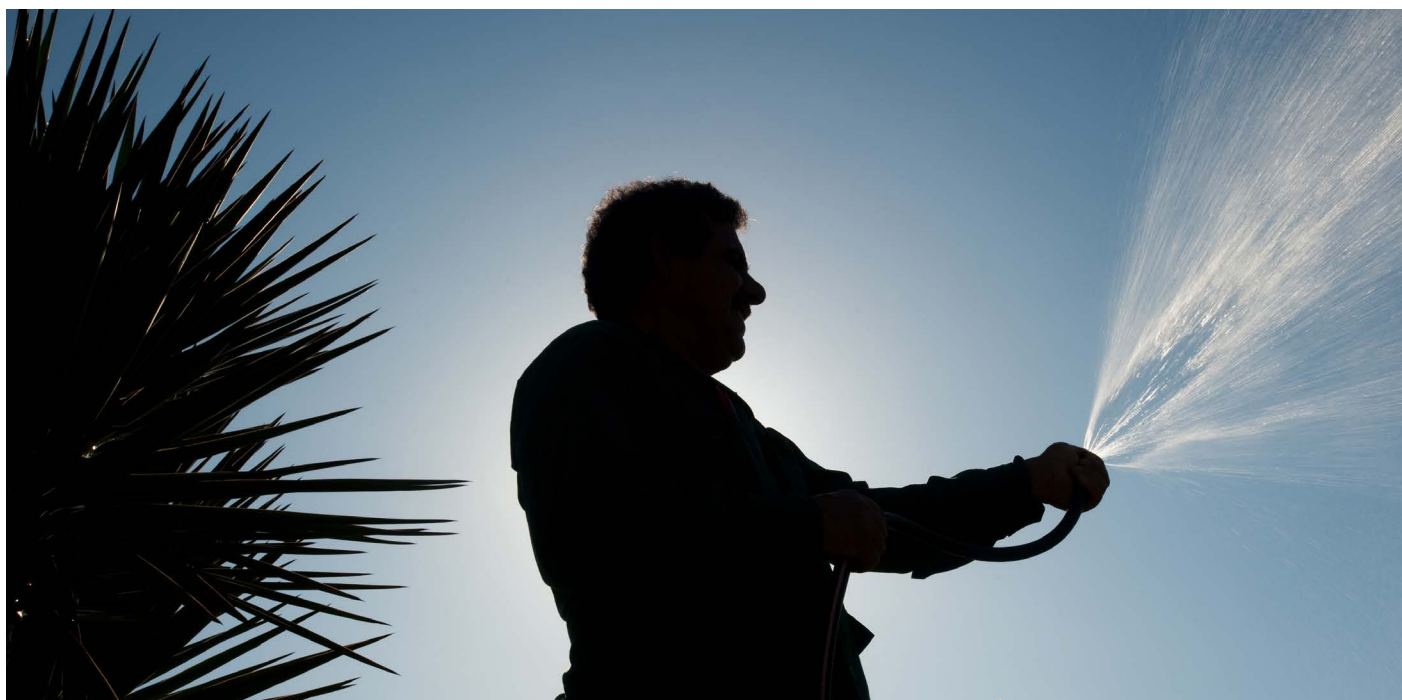




Resource efficiency and waste reduction

A summary of the Travel Foundation's water, energy and waste programmes.

We have been working on water and energy efficiency and waste reduction projects since 2006.



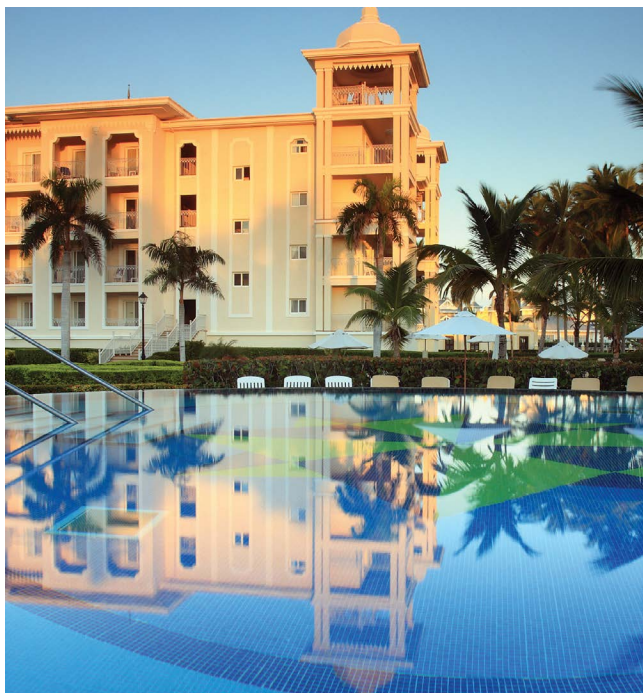
Many of the world's most popular destinations are also those most sensitive to environmental issues including water scarcity, global warming and pollution.

The demand we put on natural resources can be particularly evident on small islands or in hot, arid climates. Many popular holiday destinations have limited or no green infrastructures such as recycling facilities, clean energy or rainwater harvesting.

There is a huge opportunity for the tourism industry to help alleviate pressure on natural resources and the environment, and at the same time make cost savings.

We began working on this issue in 2006, to help hotels, small capacity boats and golf courses reduce water and energy consumption and the amount of waste generated that goes to landfill.

What we did



We began working with hotels in Jamaica in 2006 to develop resource-efficiency solutions and guidelines that could be used throughout the industry.

That project laid the foundations for an inter-island Caribbean project, 'Switch Off, Save Big', which focused on engaging hotels in water and energy efficiency, and later moved on to waste reduction.

Since then, we have worked in Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey, Egypt, and Greece with locally based consultants and organisations to help tourism businesses reduce their environmental footprint, make cost savings, improve customer satisfaction and protect the environment.

We developed a training guide for hoteliers

We developed a training guide to help hoteliers adopt new sustainable practices. It included training presentations, detailed guidelines, top tips and posters for hotel employees, for both senior management and operational staff.

To accompany the printed guide, we also developed a film with demonstrations for all aspects of the training, from changing light bulbs to low energy equivalents, to information for purchasing staff on how to reduce waste disposal. The guide was produced in English, Spanish, Greek, Turkish and Arabic, and has subsequently

been used in many of our resource efficiency projects since it was launched in 2008.

We trained industry staff worldwide

All of our water, waste and energy projects have one thing in common – staff training. All 15 of our projects in this area have included training workshops for industry employees. We have trained over 3500 staff in water, energy and waste reduction techniques.

We expanded advice to golf courses and boat owners

We embarked on ground-

breaking projects that looked at the sustainability of accommodation on boats on the Nile and Danube rivers, and helped golf courses in Mexico understand how to manage their courses more sustainably. Sustainable management of golf courses in hot, arid landscapes is particularly important, because of their water intensive nature. We developed a manual for 'floating hotels' and recommendations for golf courses in the Riviera Maya.

Two of the courses involved in the project achieved Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) certification, the first courses in Latin America to do so.





Working in Collaboration

The Travel Foundation developed partnerships with local experts, who acted as consultants on our behalf.

We also worked with the following organisations throughout our water, waste and energy programme:

Eco Red Foundation

Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative

Thomas Cook

TUI

Co-operative Travel

Atlantica Hotels

Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE)

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

SWITCH-ASIA

Responsible Tourism Partnership (Sri Lanka)

Morocco National Tourist Office

Marrakech Hotels Association

"In a year we had saved over US\$38,000, reduced staff turnover to 1% and increased group and local bookings by 2500 guest nights."

Alvin Jemmott, General Manager, Divi Southwinds Beach Resort, Barbados.

Divi Southwinds Beach Resort took part in our 'Switch Off, Save Big' project in the Caribbean.

The Benefits

Through our resource efficiency and waste reduction programme we aimed to reduce the negative impact of tourism on the environment. But our work benefitted businesses too...



BENEFITS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Reduced pressure on natural resources

11 projects in countries around with the world with known water shortage issues demonstrated that tourism businesses can help to reduce the pressure the industry puts on natural resources. We expanded our work with hotels to include the implementation of best practice measures for hotel gardens which are often hugely water intensive. We developed a best practice tool for hotel garden management, demonstrating that it's possible to reduce water usage in gardens in hot climates. All of our projects saw a reduction in water and energy consumption.

Less waste to landfill

Six projects in destinations with little or no recycling facilities resulted in less waste being generated, and sent to already at-capacity landfill sites. For example, in 2011 a plastic reduction project saw 28 hotels reduce the amount of plastic waste generated by 27.5 tonnes in a five month period, equivalent to just over the weight of 26 Toyota Yaris cars.

BENEFITS TO BUSINESSES

Cost savings

By introducing water and energy saving techniques, 106 hotels in Cyprus made a collective saving of 239,000 Euros on their water bills, and over 160,000 Euros on energy bills – in just one summer season (2008).

Reducing waste in hotels can also reduce costs. By controlling the type, and volume of items bought, the purchasing team has the power to both make cost savings on purchases, and also on waste removal services. 28 hotels involved in a plastic reduction project in Cyprus in 2011 collectively saved 111,000 Euros in a five month period.

Staff awareness

Through our projects, we trained over 3500 staff. Employees have the power to make a real difference in their day-to-day role and by raising awareness of how they can make a difference, staff at all levels have driven cost-saving sustainability initiatives.

In numbers

WE'VE WORKED ON
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
AND WASTE REDUCTION
PROJECTS IN

**14 countries,
since 2006**

3582

PEOPLE EMPLOYED
IN TOURISM HAVE
ATTENDED TRAINING
WORKSHOPS

WE'VE WORKED WITH

439

hotels

12

boats

15

golf courses



WATER

IN MOROCCO, OUR EVERY DROP
COUNTS PROJECT SAW THE
RATIO OF LITRES OF WATER USED
PER CLIENT **DECREASE BY AN
AVERAGE OF 20%** (ACROSS 90
PROPERTIES).



ENERGY

DIVI SOUTHWINDS HOTEL
IN BARBADOS **SAVED OVER
US\$30,000** IN 1 YEAR
BY EMPLOYING ENERGY
CONSUMPTION REDUCTION
TECHNIQUES RECOMMENDED
BY THE SWITCH OFF, SAVE BIG
PROJECT.



WASTE

IN CYPRUS, OUR 2011 WASTE
CONSUMPTION REDUCTION
PROJECT HELPED PARTICIPATING
HOTELS **SAVE 27.5 TONNES
OF PLASTIC, EQUIVALENT TO
JUST OVER THE WEIGHT OF 26
TOYOTA YARIS CARS.**

To find out how the Travel Foundation can help you develop tourism that is better for local people and the environment, contact us at

partnerships@thetravelfoundation.org.uk

or Tel: +44 (0)1179273049 thetravelfoundation.org.uk

