

Exploring the World of Eco-Hotels or Ecotels

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Abstract: *The study's secondary approach was used in its execution. The idea of ecological hotels, or eco-hotels, signifies a significant turn in the hospitality sector toward sustainable and ecologically friendly operations. These accommodations prioritize environmental preservation and community improvement while blending in perfectly with their natural surroundings. They embrace eco-friendly practices by using natural cooling techniques, organic and locally sourced food, tropical hardwoods, and native stone in their construction. To prove their dedication to environmental sustainability, certifications like LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) are essential. Eco-hotels provide guests a healthy and green experience by utilizing non-toxic, energy-saving, and sustainable features. These businesses provide a wide range of goods and services while promoting environmental and community preservation.*

Keywords: Eco hotels, Green hotels, Recycling initiatives, Sustainable lodging.

I. INTRODUCTION

An ecological hotel is one that is completely incorporated into the environment without endangering the environment, improving the local community in some way, and promoting sustainable tourism sector growth.

Tropical hardwoods and native stone are being used to construct new homes, which are being developed to better mix in with their surroundings. Additionally, they are operated according to eco-friendly principles, such as serving food that is organic or locally farmed or using natural cooling methods as opposed to air conditioning.

An eco-hotel, also known as a green hotel, is a lodging that is committed to environmental sustainability and has undertaken significant structural environmental changes to lessen its impact on the environment. An eco-friendly hotel is a lodge that adheres to green living principles and is committed to protecting the environment. The state where they are located or an impartial third party must certify these hotels as green. Because of their location, which is frequently in a jungle, and their architecture, which was inspired by the utilization of traditional building techniques used by talented local craftsmen in places like Costa Rica and Indonesia, these hotels were traditionally marketed primarily as eco-lodges.

The usage of organic soaps, renewable energy sources, energy-efficient lighting fixtures, and recycling initiatives are a few examples of these advancements. These hotels would benefit from obtaining specific certifications in order to be ecologically responsible. The LEED accreditation is one that is particularly useful for hotels. A hotel that has earned the LEED certification assists the environment by using energy-saving techniques. To contribute to the environment, an eco-hotel should adhere to a set of best practices. Some of these best practices include implementing in-room recycling and composting programs, selling regional organic food in restaurants, reusing linens when a visitor is staying for more than one night. These accreditations and best practices enable hotels to stand out from the competition and draw eco-aware guests.

The following requirements must typically be met by an eco-hotel:

- an emphasis on the natural world
- environmental stability
- proven environmental contribution
- programs for environmental training are made available
- consideration of cultural diversity
- giving back financially to the community

To guarantee that their visitors are staying in a secure, non-toxic, and energy-efficient environment, green hotels adhere to strict environmental regulations.

Here are fundamental traits of a green hotel:

Laundry detergent and non-toxic cleaning products are used in housekeeping.

100% organic cotton sleeping arrangements, sheets, and towels

Smoke-free environment

sources of renewable energy, such as solar or wind energy

To prevent waste, buy organic soap and other items in bulk rather than in individual packaging.

Recycling bins in hotel lobbies and guest rooms

Reusing towels and sheets (guests can request that cleaning leave these little used materials to save water)

ENERGY STAR-rated lighting

transportation on-site using eco-friendly vehicles

Serve only locally sourced, organic cuisine.

Non-disposable dinnerware

offers a technique for exchanging fresh air.

Reusing bathroom, kitchen, and laundry water for gardening and landscaping is known as "greywater recycling."

Program for recycling newspapers

Objectives:

- To understand the concept of Ecotel Hotels.
- To study the requirements and fundamental traits required for eco hotels.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to authors, there are many justifications for hotels being "green." Environmentally friendly practices reduce expenses and use of resources, making business operations long-term viable. The use of technology is aiding hotels in becoming more "green." The hotels can now efficiently monitor, control, and manage energy and other resources thanks to technology. Additionally, customers can be involved in and educated about energy conservation with the aid of technology. Hotels are now able to develop creative methods for resource and energy conservation thanks to new and developing technology. Customers recognize and value hotels' environmentally friendly initiatives since they are likewise concerned about the environment. (Singhal, 2018)

In order to determine the green initiatives that control the effectiveness of ecotels in areas related to environmental commitment, water conservation and preservation, energy efficiency, and solid waste management by various hotels in Bengaluru, researchers conducted a study. They also aimed to determine how well-known ecotels are among tourists. Both primary and secondary data were gathered using questionnaires, direct interviews, and numerous periodicals, journals, and websites. According to the paper's findings, hotels only take the bare minimum of environmental protection measures, and those that are taken are not always done so effectively. (Negi, Vaish, & Kumari, 2017)

According to this study, customers' perceptions of how important environmental responsibility are having the biggest influence on whether or not they plan to stay in a green hotel. The study also highlights three customer hurdles to participation: inconvenience, perceptions of cost-cutting, and lower luxury. These barriers all have a substantial impact on consumers' intentions to book a room at a green hotel or pay a higher rate for one. Third, the findings demonstrate that although guests think hotels ought to follow a few green guidelines, they do not value their time spent in a hotel that adheres to the thirteen green guidelines. Fourth, the findings show that guests behave more responsibly toward the environment at home than they do in a hotel. (Melissa A, 2013)

It is simple to conclude from the analysis of the orchid case study that ecotel hotels make full use of their equipment to increase energy efficiency without endangering the environment or society. Many hotels are transitioning from conventional hotels to ecotel hotels in the modern world, which helps to maintain the ecological balance when done in a responsible manner. It is abundantly evident that ecotel hotels place a higher priority on customer pleasure and environmental friendliness while simultaneously maximizing costs or profits. The authors draw the conclusion that the concept of Ecotel is becoming more well-known. (Manjunatha B, 2015)

The author suggests the Indian government should take the initiative to support green hotels by implementing programs and regulations that support the country's hotel business. The actions and remedies implemented by the hotels in India

further demonstrate that a large number of hoteliers are aware of the extremely high short- and long-term environmental impacts of their operations. One of the most sustainable solutions in these circumstances, green hotels produce benefits quickly. (Amandeep, 2017)

Eco-friendly practices must be ingrained in hospitality practices when delivering hotel services in order to satisfy the expanding demands of travel aficionados. Every travel enthusiast wants to improve their trip by getting more in touch with nature. The term "green hotel" or "eco hotel" (nowadays commonly referred to as "Ecotel") serves the purpose poignantly by offering a novel idea in hospitality that asserts to work for the preservation and conservation of the environment. (Rakesh Dani, 2021)

III. METHODOLOGY

The Study used secondary data collection which includes academic journals, industry reports, online review platforms, social media, and databases related to Ecotel hotels.

IV. CONCLUSION

The tourism sector may develop by embracing sustainability and environmental responsibility by following the lead of eco-hotels. Their commitment to living in harmony with environment and upholding eco-friendly ideals reflects a rising awareness among people all around the world of the importance of preserving our planet. These businesses improve their own sustainability through programs like LEED certification, and they serve as an example for others in the sector. Eco-hotels provide visitors with an environmentally conscious experience while assuring a safe and energy-efficient environment through their focus on non-toxic products, renewable energy, recycling, and community support. They play a crucial part in protecting the environment and local communities within the context of these green ideals, ultimately resulting in a more sustainable and responsible tourism industry.

The results of the literature research also imply that hotels are using technology to help them become more "green." Thanks to technology, hotels can now efficiently monitor, regulate, and manage their energy and other resources.

Inconvenience, perceptions of cost-cutting, and lesser luxury are three additional barriers to involvement for customers that are highlighted in the study.

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