

FACT SHEET NO. 8

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

(e.g., water, gardening, construction, spa, pool, etc.)



Reduce environmental impacts of activities



Reduce water consumption



Reduce material waste



Optimize spaces and equipment



Extend the lifespan of goods and equipments

TRAVEL BETTER THANKS TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Tools to Support the Adoption of Circular Economy Practices in Tourist Accommodations.



Image: Hôtel La Libertad

BEST PRACTICES

1

Reduce at the source



Install faucet aerators and replace showerheads with low-flow models to reduce water consumption

- Choose aerator faucet that reduces flow to less than 5 litres per minute (in French only) (a faucet without an aerator consumes approximately 13 litres per minute)
- When purchasing new faucets, choose models with a flow rate of 2 to 3.8 litres per minute (in French only)
- Prefer showerheads with a maximum flow of 6.6 litres per minute (in French only) (Watersense-certified models have a flow of 7.5 litres per minute)
- When replacing a toilet, choose a model with a maximum flush volume of 4.8 litres per flush (in French only). For dual-flush toilets, ensure that the average flush volume of both flushes is equivalent to 4.8 litres per flush (choose a Watersense-certified model)



Install a rainwater or greywater system to replace potable water in certain facilities, such as for toilet flushing, spa or pool filling, or for equipment cleaning

- Evaluate the potential for closed-loop reuse of water through additional treatment to reduce potable water use



During maintenance, prioritize the use of longer-lasting consumables such as LED bulbs or rechargeable batteries, and provide collection equipment for recycling



Image: Hôtel La Libertad



Implement a maintenance log for buildings and equipment to extend their lifespan



Keep an inventory of materials and tools owned by the establishment to prevent unnecessary purchases

- Materials and tools stored for later reuse are sometimes forgotten, leading to unnecessary repurchases that an inventory could prevent
- The time spent creating this inventory can be offset by reduced purchases of new materials and tools



Prioritize purchasing a modular carpet that allows only individual tiles to be replaced if necessary



Replace paper towel dispensers with high-efficiency electric hand dryers.



Replace individual hygiene products in gym or spa locker rooms (e.g., hand soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel) with refillable, durable, and heavy-duty dispensers

- Reusable containers should be refilled using larger recyclable or returnable containers (over 4 litres), meaning the containers are exchanged with the supplier for reuse or refilling



Image: Hôtel Centre-Ville

2

Eco-design and deconstruct

(see the [Eco-design and Construction Waste Sorting Guide](#))



Discuss the establishment's alignment with circular economy principles for construction or renovation projects with architects and interior designers, and select the project team accordingly



Plan the design, construction, or renovation of buildings using low-carbon materials that can be easily dismantled and reused

- For example, prefer screws and removable anchors over nails or glue to facilitate disassembly and material recovery at end of life
- Encourage the use of high-quality or monomaterials to facilitate end-of-life recovery (e.g., wood, metal)



Plan complete or partial building deconstruction at end of life to allow material reuse

3

Donate or resell



Identify consumable products used by the establishment with a high turnover rate (e.g., bedding) and explore donation or sale options to employees or organizations



During refurbishment work, donate or sell equipment such as furniture or lighting to extend their lifecycle.

- Donate to community organizations, shelters, newcomers' centres, etc.

4

Refurbish



Refurbish or reuse old furniture, internally or externally, to extend its lifespan



Reuse certain materials recovered from an establishment product, for example:

- Renovation waste reused to build a display board
- Corks reused for an acoustic wall



Image: Hôtel Château Laurier Québec



Recycler

- Create a sorting area with clear signage within the maintenance department for the proper sorting of recyclables, household hazardous residues, electronics, paints, batteries, light bulbs and fluorescent tubes, and other materials.
- Send materials to the correct recovery streams by contracting with a recognized recycling company
- Contract a carpet or ceiling tile recycling company to prevent them from going to landfill
- Separate and recycle materials during renovation or construction work (see the [Eco-design and Construction Waste Sorting Guide](#))
 - › Ask contractors where construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) waste is sent. In some cases, they may need to contact the company that supplies the containers.
 - See the [guide](#) for suggested questions to ask your supplier
 - › Prioritize sending CRD waste to [sorting centres recognized by RECYC-QUÉBEC](#)



Image: Auberge du Lac Taureau



Compost

- Evaluate recovery options for organic waste from kitchens and food services for collection
- Alternatively, produce on-site compost and create a private or community garden on the facility grounds to use it
 - › Food from this garden can be used in the kitchen



Image: Hôtel Albert par G5

6

Encourage the use of public and active transportation



Promote public transportation by providing clients with practical information (e.g., nearby transit stations)



Schedule meetings to encourage or accommodate participants using public transportation



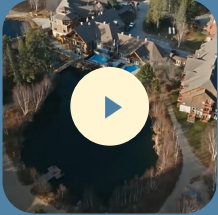
Offer and promote bike and helmet rentals on-site



Provide and promote a bike repair kit on-site

SAMPLE CASES

View all videos



Auberge du Lac Taureau (English subtitles available)

- Refurbishment of 300 dining room chairs to avoid replacement



Auberge Saintlo Montréal (English subtitles available)

- Reuse of plexiglass from COVID times to make drawer organizers in the kitchen
- Repurposing of wooden crates into furniture/storage and buckets into plant containers



Hôtel Albert par G5 (English subtitles available)

- Repair and reupholstering of dining room chairs



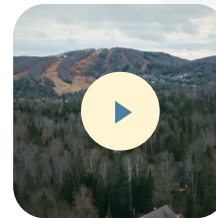
Hôtel La Libertad (English subtitles available)

- Repair and reupholstering of dining room chairs



Hôtel Ruby Foo's and Excelsior Hôtel Spa Sainte-Adèle (English subtitles available)

- Installation of rainwater collectors for spa or pool filling, reducing water bills



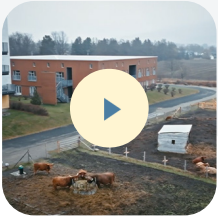
Excelsior Hôtel Spa Sainte-Adèle (English subtitles available)

- Use of an air dehumidification system in the indoor pool area, also recovering ambient heat to warm the pool water
- Creation of a garden on an unused area of the grounds, allowing products to be redistributed to the community



Hôtel Château Laurier Québec (English subtitles available)

- Contract with a carpet recycling company
- Installation of 60 planters on the facility roof to grow herbs and edible flowers for the kitchen



Hôtel & Spa Le Germain Charlevoix (English subtitles available)

- Creation of themed event decorations (e.g., Christmas, summer) with a partner, using recycled and unused on-site materials
- Installation of a counter to sell surplus fruits and vegetables to visitors and the community

USEFUL TIPS

1

Implementing circular economy measures does not necessarily require significant financial investments, but primarily involves operational reorganization.

- The reorganization's impact on human resources and change management should not be underestimated.

2

Several changes require re-evaluating current building management practices, including habits related to purchasing, residual material management, and resource use, to implement high-impact measures.

- For example, if current management prioritizes low-cost purchases, it may be worthwhile to reassess this approach and favour durable, recoverable, and recyclable goods, which may cost more upfront but are cost-effective in the long term.

USEFUL RESOURCES

RECYC-QUÉBEC offers various information related to the management of construction, renovation, and demolition (CRD) waste (in French only)—[Homepage](#)

Interactive map of CRD waste treatment facilities in Quebec (in French only):

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/entreprises-organismes/performer/crd/>

List of CRD waste sorting centres (in French only):

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/liste-centres-tri-crd.xlsx>

Tools offering waste management clauses for CRD-generating projects (in French only):

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/outil-ecpar-clauses-ao-crd.xlsx>

Downloadable visuals/pictograms for creating your own waste sorting posters (in French only):

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/entreprises-organismes/performer/outils-guides-et-etudes/pictogrammes-signalisation/>

Companies recognized for the recovery of various materials:

Residual materials (in French only):

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/entreprises-organismes/performer/listes-entreprises-installations/>

Materials under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (in French only):

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/fiche-vue-ensemble-produits-rep.pdf>

USEFUL RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

Guide for selecting water-saving equipment (in French only):

<https://www.ecohabitation.com/guides/2783/appareil-a-debit-reduit-au-lavabo/>

Guides on green building, greywater recovery, and advice on equipment maintenance and material selection (in French only):

<https://www.ecohabitation.com/guides/query/entretien/>

Eco-designed and circular economy project examples in the construction sector (in French only):

<https://constructioncirculaire.com/>

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