

Sustainability Guide

WASTE, COMPOSTING & CIRCULARITY RESOURCES

Food waste and glass are the easiest wins for Miami hotels because providers already exist to handle them. Partnering with compost or glass programs reduces your landfill costs and boosts your sustainability rating quickly, especially for Green Key applications.

- Compost for Life -

Contact: Francisco Torres — francisco@compostforlifemiami.com

Highlights: Food waste pickup for hotels

Compost creation + donation to local farmers

32.6% of Miami's waste stream is compostable

Offers impact tracking

Bin cost: \$160 each

- Soilmate -

Contact: Andy Jo — andy@your-soilmate.com

Background: 10+ years in compost systems; supports Miami hotels.

- Renuable -

Contact: Xavier DeRoos — xavier@liverenuable.com

Focus: organics recycling & expanding Florida's compost infrastructure.

- Fertile Earth -

Contact: Dr. Lanette Sobel — lanette@fertileearth.net

Conducting waste audits showing the impact of food waste in South Florida.

- Glass for Life (sister program to Compost for Life) -

Turns glass bottles into usable sand

Sand is the world's second most exploited resource

Supports circularity + reduces landfill burden

RECYCLING, DONATION & WASTE-DIVERSION PARTNERS

- LRP Recycling -

Contact: Joe Nguyen — joe@lrprecycling.com

Focus: bulky-item recycling, hotel-friendly solutions.

- Lady Green Recycling -

Contact: Michelle Salas — msalas@ladygreenrecycling.com

Miami's first woman-owned recycling company.

- STS Electronic Recycling -

Contact: Lee Garner — lee@stsrecycle.com

Specializes in hotel e-waste.

- Replenish -

Contact: Marcela Chamorro — marcela@replenish.com

Aluminum circularity program; helps track diversion data.

RECYCLING, DONATION & WASTE-DIVERSION PARTNERS

A strong recycling program depends on proper sorting and good partners. Switching to clear bags, training staff regularly, and working with reliable recycling companies can improve your diversion rate fast.

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PLASTIC REDUCTION & ALTERNATIVES

- CupZero -

Contact: Zsolt Bendel – zsolt@cupzero.com

Reusable cup rental program for events.

- Click Eat -

Contact: Oscar Herrera – oherrera@theclickeat.com

Compostable packaging solutions, replacing single-use plastics.

Key Insight for Hotels:

Black bags are NOT recommended – recycling centers treat black bags as trash because they're a safety hazard.

Use clear bags for all recycling streams.

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS: WATER AND ENERGY + PURCHASING & LOCAL MODELS

This section gives hotels the tools to improve water efficiency, reduce energy costs, choose responsible suppliers, and learn from Miami's leading sustainable properties.

- Water Conservation & Green Infrastructure -

Key Partners & Contacts

Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department (WASD)

Patrick Martin – Patrick.Martin2@miamidade.gov

Supports:

Leak detection for hotels

- Efficiency & retrofit programs -

UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade

Laura Vasquez – lavasquez@ufl.edu

Supports:

Irrigation efficiency

Water-smart landscaping

Staff training on water conservation

- Miami Waterkeeper -

Helen Quinn – helen.quinn@miamiwaterkeeper.org

Laura del Mar – laura.cruz@miamiwaterkeeper.org

Programs:

“1000 Eyes on the Water” monitoring

Hotel stewardship & water protection

- **Advice for Hotels for Local Models:**

Start with simple upgrades like leak checks, faucet aerators, and efficient irrigation schedules. These actions lower bills immediately.

Pair operational improvements with staff training and guest messaging to reinforce your water-saving culture.

- Don't underestimate supplier influence. Even if your hotel is committed to sustainability, plastic-heavy deliveries will undermine your progress. Build relationships with suppliers who align with your goals or push existing ones to change.

Sustainable Supplier Guide for Hotels

Simple DOs, DON'Ts, and Practical Tips

DO: Communicate Your Sustainability Goals

- Tell suppliers your hotel is working toward sustainability certification.
 - Request reduced packaging or plastic-free delivery.
- Ask for reusable crates, bulk options, or compostable materials.
- Encourage digital invoices and minimal packing materials.

DON'T: Assume Suppliers Will Change Automatically

- Packaging stays the same unless you request changes.
- Don't accept plastic-heavy deliveries without discussion.
- Avoid signing contracts that limit sustainability choices.

DO: Review Your Current Deliveries

- Conduct a 1-week audit of supplier packaging.
- Identify which vendors create the most plastic and waste.
 - Use this data to negotiate improvements.

DON'T: Keep Suppliers Who Refuse to Adjust

- If a vendor won't reduce plastic or offer alternatives, explore other options.
- Resistance to change is a sign they may not fit your sustainability goals.

DO: Request Sustainable Packaging Options

Most major suppliers *already* offer alternatives.

Ask:

- “Can this be delivered in bulk?”
- “Do you offer compostable or aluminum alternatives?”
- “Can we eliminate foam, shrink wrap, and plastic liners?”

Common hotel suppliers to engage:

- Sysco
- Cheney Brothers
- US Foods
- Imperial Dade (cleaning + amenities)
 - Ecolab (refillable systems)

DON'T: Forget Suppliers Drive Most Waste

Hotels generate **50–60% of their waste from supplier packaging**.

Addressing this early greatly improves Green Key scores.

DO: Add Sustainability Requirements to Contracts

Include terms such as:

- “No plastic bags or foam packaging.”
- “Bulk or reusable delivery methods preferred.”
- “Compostable or biodegradable materials required.”

DON'T: Miss Hidden Plastics

Common overlooked items:

- Plastic-wrapped linens
- Individually wrapped hotel amenities
 - Foam produce trays

- Shrink wrap around bar supplies
- Plastic-lined paper cups

DO: Start With a Simple Conversation

A recommended script:

“Our hotel is improving sustainability. Can we adjust packaging to reduce plastic and increase reusable or compostable options?”

Suppliers often agree when asked directly.

DON'T: Accept ‘We Don’t Have That’

Most vendors *do* have sustainable options – they simply don’t offer them unless requested.

DO: Explore Sustainable Alternative Vendors (If Needed)

If your vendor won’t adapt, consider:

- **Verterra** – palm leaf to-go containers
- **World Centric** – compostable packaging
- **Eco-Products** – sustainable disposables
- **Good Start Packaging** – biodegradable hotel supplies
- **NB Rising Above vendor lists** – Miami Beach plastic-free options

These companies help hotels drastically reduce plastic waste.

Quick Tip: Start Small

Begin with one area:

- produce boxes
- seafood/sushi packaging
 - amenity bottles
- janitorial products

Small supplier changes → major waste reduction.

Every change no matter how small is a change towards a better future.