

## REDUCING WASTE IN HOSPITALITY

We know that healthy oceans and seas are essential to our existence. They cover 70 percent of our planet, and we rely on them for food, energy and water. Oceans also provide jobs and livelihoods, both in terms of extraction of resources and tourism, of which approximately 80% globally happens in coastal areas. In addition, oceans are one of the world's largest carbon sinks, acting like a global climate control system. Yet, we have managed to do tremendous damage to these precious resources. We must protect them from multiple threats such as overfishing and pollution.

### PLASTIC POLLUTION

Pollution comes from many sources in the ocean, but one that is undeniable and often links to the tourism industry is from plastics.

Plastic is the most prevalent type of marine debris found in our ocean. Plastic debris can come in all shapes and sizes, but those that are less than five millimetres in length (or about the size of a sesame seed) are called “microplastics.”

Microplastics come from a variety of sources, including from larger plastics that break down into smaller pieces. In addition, microbeads are very tiny pieces of manufactured polyethylene plastic that are added as exfoliants to health and beauty products, such as some cleansers and toothpastes. These tiny particles easily pass through water filtration systems and end up in the ocean, posing a potential threat to aquatic and human life through food chains.

Removing plastics from the ocean is a priority of local and international efforts, though projects such as the [Marine Conservation Society’s Great British Beach Cleans](#) and [the Ocean Cleanup](#).

Reducing the demand for single-use plastics is also part of the solution, as often these items get littered and pollute the waterways and oceans if not disposed of correctly. So making reusable items the norm and removing single-use plastic items from use in hospitality businesses can have a positive impact on life below water.



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## HOW YOUR HOSPITALITY BUSINESS CAN HELP

1. Carry out a plastics audit (you can do this for all waste types if you want). Platforms like [PlasTICK](#) can help with this process and [Refill](#) have many great ideas and resources.
2. Assess what single-use plastics you can remove from your operations, such as cups, miniature bathroom amenities and even slippers if these are binned after use.
3. [Reducing waste is the main goal](#), so although alternative materials to plastic can have environmental benefits, always prioritise reusables and ditch the disposables.
4. Make a waste plan to find the best options for dealing with your waste. If you provide bathroom amenities, even in large bottles, [Clean the World](#) provides a recycling programme for both the remaining contents and plastic waste. [Clean Conscience](#) is a social enterprise that enables businesses to redistribute items they no longer need.
5. To broaden your approach and use a well-established framework for sustainability, you can seek support and accreditation through eco-labels such as [Green Key](#).

## EDUCATIONAL BLOGS:

[Understanding the Different Types of Plastic Blog](#)

[Clean the World x Greenkey Supporting Sustainable Solutions](#)

[Clean the World's Impact Dashboard](#)

[Clean the World's Processes](#)

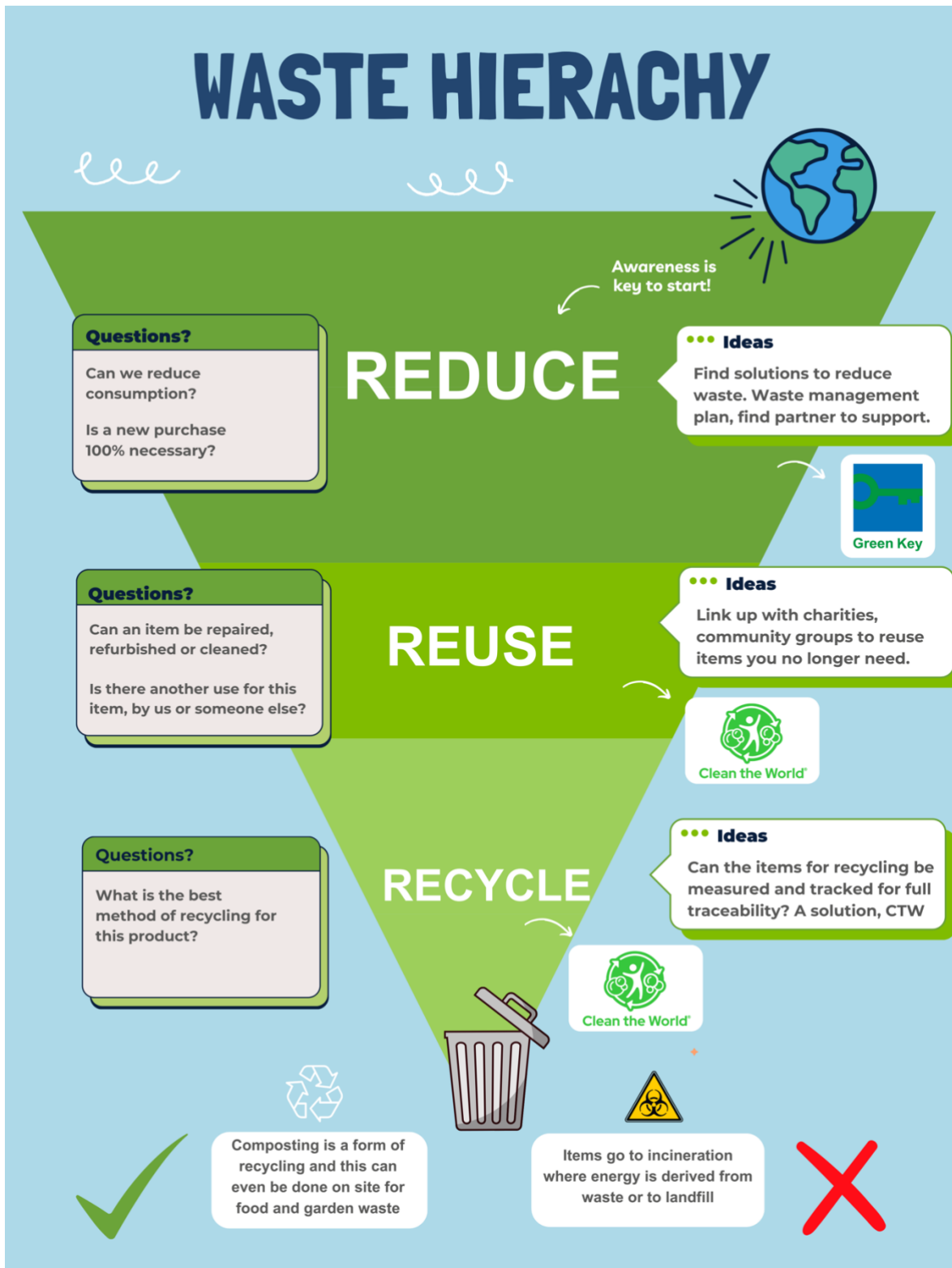


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## WASTE HIERARCHY



ALIGNED WITH UNITED NATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14:  
**LIFE BELOW WATER**



**CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**PRESERVE THE BLUE, PROTECT THE EARTH:**  
URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD  
THE PLANET'S **LARGEST ECOSYSTEM**



## OCEAN EMERGENCY



**COASTAL EUTROPHICATION:**  
CAUSING ALGAL BLOOMS AND DEAD ZONES



**OCEAN ACIDIFICATION:**  
30% HIGHER THAN IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES



**OCEAN WARMING:**  
SEA-LEVEL RISE AND AFFECTING MARINE ECOSYSTEMS



**PLASTIC POLLUTION:**  
17 MILLION METRIC TONS IN 2021-2-3X MORE BY 2040



**OVER-FISHING:**  
MORE THAN A THIRD OF GLOBAL FISH STOCKS ARE OVERFISHED

**CITIZEN SCIENCE BEACH CLEAN-UPS**

→ SHED LIGHT ON THE MAGNITUDE OF  
**OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION**



**SUFFOCATING SEAS**

→ COASTAL EUTROPHICATION TRIGGERS  
**CRUSTACEAN WALKOUTS**



**OCEAN ACIDIFICATION**  
REPORTING STATIONS HAVE  
**TRIPLED WORLDWIDE**

2021: 178 STATIONS  
2022: 308 STATIONS  
2023: 539 STATIONS

**1 IN 5 FISH CAUGHT**  
ORIGINATES FROM  
**ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED**  
AND **UNREGULATED FISHING**



Source: [un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans)

**Green Key** is a leading international eco-label for tourism and hospitality facilities.

A Foundation for Environmental Education programme, managed in England by Keep Britain Tidy and recognised by the World Tourism Organisation and UN Environment Programme, the award sets the standard for excellence in the field of environmental responsibility and sustainable operation within the tourism sector.

Visit: [greenkeyengland.co.uk](http://greenkeyengland.co.uk)

**Clean the World** is a global leader in sustainable environmental and social impact solutions, transforming used soap bars and plastic amenities that the hospitality industry would otherwise discard into life-saving, essential supplies for communities in need across the globe. With every soap and plastic amenity recycled, Clean the World helps reduce the impact of pollution on our planet and improves the lives of women, children, and communities globally by donating new soap bars to global NGOs, such as Clean the World Foundation.

With over 8,000 participants in its Global Hospitality Recycling Program, Clean the World has already diverted over 10 million kg's of waste from landfills and donated over 80 million bars of recycled soap since its inception in 2009.

Visit: [cleantheworldglobal.org](http://cleantheworldglobal.org)



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