

From Food Waste to Furniture: Sustainability Practices at Swire Group Hotels



Source: Unsplash (2023)

Background

Sustainability has become a major topic for hotels nowadays as travelers become increasingly environmentally conscious. With the goal of creating a greener future, the Swire group has rolled out a range of eco-friendly initiatives at its two hotels in Hong Kong (Swire Properties, n.d.).

The Food Waste Recycling Machine, 'ORCA'

Located on the 1/F of EAST Hong Kong in Quarry Bay, the bustling restaurant FEAST (Food by EAST) is certified under the Swire Properties Green Kitchen Initiative (Swire Hotels, 2022). Among the many eco-friendly practices adopted by the restaurant, the most noteworthy is the food waste recycling machine, 'ORCA' (Swire Hotels, 2022). The ORCA is a Canadian-designed technology that can decompose up to 45 kg of solid food waste per hour into liquid form, which can be safely discharged into the drainage system through a grease interceptor. The process also produces effluent that can later be captured to generate renewable energy at sewage treatment plants (HKTDC, 2020). Over the course of 2023, the two ORCAs installed at EAST Hong Kong disposed of a total of 11,915 kg of food waste—the equivalent of two elephants (Swire Hotels, 2023). The implementation of ORCA not only reduces waste going to landfill but also supports sustainable energy generation.

The Zero-waste Christmas Tree

On the other hand, The Upper House in Admiralty emphasizes limiting the use of natural resources, with its building engineering team taking pride in improving the building's energy efficiency and water consumption (The Upper House, n.d.). As part of their past projects, the hotel created a 3.6-metre-tall upcycled Christmas tree made from 38,600 discarded plastic bottles and upcycled glass, which were shredded and melted into sparkling orbs resembling glittering Christmas ornaments (Swire Hotels, 2022). Designed with the concept of "The Tree That Lives On," the 100% upcycled Christmas tree was later reconfigured into five sets of

furniture after being displayed over the holiday season. The furniture sets were then auctioned to raise a total of HK\$170,000 for charities supporting underprivileged families in Hong Kong (Swire Hotels, 2022).

Challenges

Although these initiatives and technologies can effectively reduce the hotels' carbon footprint, their effectiveness greatly depends on staff knowledge and environmental awareness. Moreover, despite such meaningful and innovative approaches to sustainability, there is a lack of promotion to inform the public about the group's sustainable measures. The group should consider putting up information boards around the hotel or working with local news media to promote and educate the public about the hotel's sustainable designs, such as the zero-waste Christmas tree.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the potential benefits and challenges of using technology like ORCA in reducing food waste in the hospitality industry?
2. In what ways can the zero-waste Christmas tree project at The Upper House serve as a model for other hotels looking to implement sustainable practices?
3. How can hotels effectively promote their sustainability initiatives to increase public awareness and engagement?
4. How important is it for hotels to collaborate with local media to promote their green initiatives?
5. What role does staff knowledge and engagement play in the success of sustainability initiatives?

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Keywords

- Sustainability
- Hotel
- Food waste recycling
- Environmental Awareness
- Zero-waste
- Carbon footprint

Acknowledgement

This case study is based on and adapted from the work of undergraduate students ZHANG Shen; JIANG Jiayao; CHEN Zhishan; CHEN Sze Yu; KWAI Tsz Yi from the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

从食物垃圾到家具：太古集团酒店的可持续发展实践



Source: Unsplash (2023)

背景

随着旅行者环保意识的日益增强，可持续发展已成为当今酒店业的重要议题。为了创造更绿色的未来，太古集团在香港的两家酒店推出了一系列环保举措（Swire Properties, n.d.）。

食物垃圾处理机"ORCA"

位于鲗鱼涌港岛东酒店一楼的 FEAST 餐厅，已获得太古地产绿色厨房倡议的认证（Swire Hotels, 2022）。在餐厅采用的众多环保实践中，最引人注目的是食物垃圾处理机"ORCA"（Swire Hotels, 2022）。ORCA 是一项加拿大设计的技术，每小时可分解高达 45 公斤的固体食物垃圾成液体，通过隔油池安全排放至排水系统。此过程产生的流出物随后可在污水处理厂被捕获用于产生可再生能源（HKTDC, 2020）。在整个 2023 年，港岛东酒店安装的两台 ORCA 机器共处理了 11,915 公斤的食物垃圾——相当于两头大象的重量（Swire Hotels, 2023）。ORCA 的实施不仅减少了送往堆填区的废物，也支持了可持续能源的产生。

零废弃圣诞树

另一方面，位于金钟的奕居则强调限制自然资源的使用，其建筑工程团队以提高建筑能效和降低用水量为荣（The Upper House, n.d.）。作为其过往项目的一部分，酒店曾用 38,600 个废弃塑料瓶和升级再造的玻璃，制作了一棵 3.6 米高的升级再造圣诞树。这些材料被粉碎并熔化成闪亮的球体，宛如璀璨的圣诞装饰品（Swire Hotels, 2022）。这棵 100%升级再造的圣诞树以“生命之树”为设计理念，在节日季展示后被重

新配置成五套家具。这些家具随后被拍卖，为支持香港弱势家庭的慈善机构筹集了总计 17 万港元的善款（Swire Hotels, 2022）。

挑战

尽管这些举措和技术能有效减少酒店的碳足迹，但其效果在很大程度上取决于员工的知识和环保意识。此外，尽管采用了如此有意义和创新的可持续发展方法，但集团在向公众宣传其可持续措施方面有所欠缺。集团应考虑在酒店内设置信息板，或与本地新闻媒体合作，宣传并教育公众了解酒店的可持续设计，例如零废弃圣诞树。

讨论问题

1. 在酒店业使用像 ORCA 这样的技术来减少食物垃圾，有哪些潜在的益处与挑战？
2. 奕居的零废弃圣诞树项目可以如何作为范本，供其他希望实施可持续实践的酒店参考？
3. 酒店可以如何有效推广其可持续发展倡议，以提高公众的认知度和参与度？
4. 酒店与本地媒体合作推广其绿色倡议有多重要？
5. 员工的知识与参与度在可持续发展倡议的成功中扮演着什么角色？

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关键词

- 可持续发展
- 酒店
- 食物垃圾回收
- 环保意识
- 零废弃
- 碳足迹

致谢

本案例研究基于并改编自香港理工大学酒店及旅游管理学院本科生 ZHANG Shen; JIANG Jiayao; CHEN Zhishan; CHEN Sze Yu; KWAI Tsz Yi 的作业。

從食物垃圾到傢俱：太古集團酒店的永續發展實踐



Source: Unsplash (2023)

背景

隨著旅行者環保意識的日益增強，永續發展已成為當今酒店業的重要議題。為了創造更綠色的未來，太古集團在香港的兩家酒店推出了一系列環保舉措（Swire Properties, n.d.）。

食物垃圾處理機"ORCA"

位於鰂魚涌港島東酒店一樓的 FEAST 餐廳，已獲得太古地產綠色廚房倡議的認證（Swire Hotels, 2022）。在餐廳採用的眾多環保實踐中，最引人注目的是食物垃圾處理機"ORCA"（Swire Hotel, 2022）。ORCA 是一項加拿大設計的技術，每小時可分解高達 45 公斤的固體食物垃圾成液體，透過隔油池安全排放至排水系統。此過程產生的流出物隨後可在污水處理廠被捕獲用於產生可再生能源（HKTDC, 2020）。在整個 2023 年，港島東酒店安裝的兩台 ORCA 機器總共處理了 11,915 公斤的食物垃圾——相當於兩頭大象的重量（Swire Hotels, 2023）。ORCA 的實施不僅減少了送往堆填區的廢物，也支持了永續能源的產生。

零廢棄聖誕樹

另一方面，位於金鐘的奕居則強調限制自然資源的使用，其建築工程團隊以提高建築能效和降低用水量為榮（The Upper House, n.d.）。作為其過往專案的一部分，酒店曾用 38,600 個廢棄塑膠瓶和升級再造的玻璃，製作了一棵 3.6 米高的升級再造聖誕樹。這些材料被粉碎並熔化成閃亮的球體，宛如璀璨的聖誕裝飾品（Swire

Hotels, 2022)。這棵 100%升級再造的聖誕樹以"生命之樹"為設計理念，在節日季展示後被重新配置成五套傢俱。這些傢俱隨後被拍賣，為支持香港弱勢家庭的慈善機構籌集了總計 17 萬港元的善款 (Swire Hotels, 2022)。

挑戰

儘管這些舉措和技術能有效減少酒店的碳足跡，但其效果在很大程度上取決於員工的知識和環保意識。此外，儘管採用了如此有意義和創新的永續發展方法，但集團在向公眾宣傳其永續措施方面有所欠缺。集團應考慮在酒店內設置資訊板，或與本地新聞媒體合作，宣傳並教育公眾了解酒店的永續設計，例如零廢棄聖誕樹。

討論問題

1. 在酒店業使用像 ORCA 這樣的技術來減少食物垃圾，有哪些潛在的益處與挑戰？
2. 奕居的零廢棄聖誕樹專案可以如何作為範本，供其他希望實施永續實踐的酒店參考？
3. 酒店可以如何有效推廣其永續發展倡議，以提高公眾的認知度和參與度？
4. 酒店與本地媒體合作推廣其綠色倡議有多重要？
5. 員工的知識和參與度在永續發展倡議的成功中扮演著什麼角色？

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關鍵詞

- 永續發展
- 酒店
- 食物垃圾回收
- 環保意識
- 零廢棄
- 碳足跡

致謝

本案例研究基於並改編自香港理工大學酒店及旅遊管理學院本科生 ZHANG Shen; JIANG Jiayao; CHEN Zhishan; CHEN Sze Yu; KWAI Tsz Yi 的作業。