



## ECO TRESORT – Slovenia

### SUMMARY

**Project description:** New equipment compatible with a sustainability vision for hostel operations and activities: new LED lights, the discontinuation of the offer of bottled water at our bar and replacement with reusable glass flasks, bicycle delivery, urban beehive and contributions to an ECO fund.

**Project type:** Energy Efficiency, Water, Education in Sustainability, Sun

**National Association:** Hostelling International Slovenia

**Project location:** Youth Hostel Tresor, Ljubljana

**Estimation of number of reduced tonnes of CO2:** 31.166 tonnes of CO2 per year

**Total funds requested:** £5000

**Total project cost:** £7370

**Annual £ saves and ROI (Return On Investment):** £3,445.56 for all projects added, and a ROI in 6 months for the bottles

**Why this project should be funded ahead of others:** At Hostel Tresor we already give allot of importance to sustainability. Invigorated by the fact that Ljubljana is the Green capital of Europe, we have embarked on a long process of development and redevelopment. We have installed self-closing taps and showers, localized our food and drinks suppliers and started educating our guests on saving energy. We also emphasize the impact of tourism on local life and the city to our guests. We've connected to different local businesses and tour operators that also priorities the importance of sustainability and in August, we organized a sustainability festival with emphasis on tourism. We hosted different companies and organizations, organized workshops and organized different free sustainable tours.

With the proposed projects and investments, we will further increase our commitment for sustainability, greatly reduce our carbon footprint, save energy, save plastic and water, and off course educate people on the importance of sustainability.

These are big steps that will together form a sustainable hostel and local environment, but at the same time, by reducing costs and raising funds, help us invest even more in to our hostel, our environment and our future.





## DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

### Purpose/objectives of the project activity

Tourism, in the last decades, has experienced almost continuous growth and diversification and thus became one of the biggest and fastest growing economic sectors in the world. But by becoming one of the essential drives of social-economic progress, it also became a source of tremendous influence on nature and of course on local lives.

Being the biggest hostel in Slovenia in the heart of Ljubljana – capital city and tourist capital of Slovenia, we are aware on the impact our business and our guests bring to the environment and the city. Tourism has been expanding rapidly and last year, a city of 300.000 inhabitants, for the first time, had more than 1 million tourist nights spent. This year we are already close to this number and the expert projections are promising a steady 4-5% growth for the next couple of years.

We believe sustainability and responsibility are key words for the future of tourism. It is reckless to ignore the future. Not only to the environment and the society, but also towards generating future profits. Sustainability used to be something that was nice to do, but today it has become a must do.

We divide the concept of sustainability in to two main pillars. First it is the ecological pillar – the influence on nature and the environment. And secondly, the social pillar – influence on society, local population and way of life. It is necessary to always strive to have both in mind when developing, redeveloping and rethinking new measures, new businesses and new projects.

Ljubljana is the European green capital for 2016, so inspired by this, we have already implemented some measures to decrease our carbon footprint. We have installed self-closing taps and showers, localized our food and drinks suppliers and started educating our guests on saving energy. We also started to emphasize to our guests the impact of tourism on local life and the city. Because of this we've connected to different local businesses and tour operators that also prioritize the importance of sustainability.

In the coming year and as a part of this competition we are planning four different new improvements to further reduce our carbon footprint and raise awareness on ecology and socially responsible tourism.

We are planning to:

- Change old light bulbs with new and much more efficient LED lights
- Discontinue use of plastic bottles for water and replace with reusable glass bottles
- Buy personal and transport bikes to reduce car use to minimum
- Start a herbal rooftop garden and a beehive
- Give more emphasis on educating our guest on importance of sustainability and implementation of ECO-cent.



## Methodology (How)

The project will take place in stages and will strive to minimize waste from replacing previously used materials.

- *By Changing our old incandescent light bulbs for LED lights*, we will greatly decrease energy consumption and substantially increase our power savings. Our projections show a return of investment in the first year, while future savings will be redirected into an ECO investment fund, which will be used later for future investments in sustainability projects, one being installment of solar panels. Old light bulbs will not be thrown away but reused for DIY projects with our guests. They will be making interesting new decoration or useful items, while learning about sustainability at the same time.

- Regarding drinking water, Slovenia is probably one of the luckiest countries in the world, since more than half of tap water being used is already so clean, it does not need any additional treatment when it is being pumped from the wells. We take great pride in this and have respect for clean waters. Most of Slovenians already stopped buying bottled water, but sadly this is not the case when it comes to pour tourists. It is why we want to *discontinue the offer of bottled water at our bar and replace it with reusable glass flasks*. The flasks will be done at a local glass factory, that is widely recognized as a socially responsible company that gives back to local community and tries to provide design education and scholarships to younger generations. The design of the flasks will be made over a design competition for young designers. They will also feature our and HI logo, accompanied by a short thought on sustainability. Our cost for the flask will be 2,5€ and we will be selling them for 3€. The surplus will also go in to the ECO investment fund.

- We have already localized our supply chains, but we want to further improve this step by replacing motorized delivery with *bicycle delivery*. We will purchase a delivery bike and a small trailer to deliver all the necessary food, drinks and various items for the hostel. This is especially important because we are located at a car free zone, that does enable delivery for local businesses, but we want to provide an example that alternatives are possible. The transport bike will also be used to transport luggage to the train station for the guests that normally take a cab. We will also purchase two city bikes that will be available for all the employees, that do not already use bikes to come to work and for guests that want to use them as means of transport inside the city center. By doing so, we will further encourage use of more sustainable transport. Our projections show a carbon footprint reduction of 14.420kg per year.

- Slovenia is famous for its honey production that has been a part of our culture for centuries, and can be seen expressed on unique beehive panels that ornament most of Slovenian beehives, and represent different folk stories. But extensive use of pesticides and air pollution have devastated the bee population. We want to help improve the situation by *building a small urban beehive on our rooftop*. The investment cost for two small beehives will be 450€. The honey produced will be served at breakfast to give further importance to healthy and locally produced food. We will additionally *plant a small herbal garden* with plants like mint, sage, basil... that are good for bee population and will be used for making homemade ice teas and other drinks.

- Physical measures without education do not mean much by themselves. We will equip all the rooms with huge messages on the walls that will give short but strong thoughts and information on ecology, sustainability and responsible tourism. We will also host regular weekly events, lectures and workshops with purpose of educating our guests and locals on sustainability. All our guests will also be given an option, when paying their stay, to pay additional 0,5€ for our ECO fund. Based on our preliminary survey, we expect that at least one fifth of our guests will decide to do so.



## **Monitoring plan**

Monitoring of electricity consumption will be an easy task. We have made a chart of electricity usage per month for the last two years and will be comparing this with the next year's consumption when the light bulbs will be replaced by much more efficient and sustainable LED lights.

All the bikes will be equipped with distance meters. We will check the results on weekly basis and calculate the reduction of carbon footprint based on statistics provided by ETA (Environmental Transport Association) and based on study by European cycling federation, which reports that cycling is responsible for 21g of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while cars are 271g and buses 101g per kilometer.

The data and analysis for electricity and cycling will be presented on our web page and on a chalkboard behind the reception and in the common room.

## **Contribution of the project activity to sustainable development**

At Hostel Tresor we have already started connecting with different sustainable organizations and companies. For instance, we closely cooperate with "Gostilna Dela", a restaurant that provides education for long-term unemployed. We give special attention to alternative tours like CurioCity, that takes our guests on a tour of Ljubljana's socially responsible companies.

With the new projects we will continue this tradition and further enhance our cooperation with different actors in the field of sustainability and off course project and give an example of sustainability. With regular workshops we will host at the hostel (avg. light bulb recycling, gardening...) we will educate our guests and locals alike. They will also serve as a unique opportunity to connect tourists and locals to create an environment where they can exchange ideas, get to know each other and get a better sense of responsibility towards different and unique ways of life.

We will continue to organize our sustainability festival and host regular discussions and presentations on this topic.

## **Environmental impacts**

With the planned investments and projects, we will additionally and substantially reduce our carbon footprint, which will be directly achieved by installing more efficient lighting system and reducing our use of motorized vehicles by purchasing a transport bike and a couple of city bikes.

By excluding plastic bottled water from our offer, we will reduce our environmental impact and greatly emphasize the importance of clean drinking water, one of world's most important and at the same time most fragile resource.

By setting up a beehive on our roof top, we will help restore the bee population which was devastated in recent decades, and with the herbal garden we will help sustain the population as well.

## **Estimations of emission reductions (CO<sub>2</sub>e tones)**

Our hostels yearly average use of electricity is 20655kWh. Data provided by Slovenian ministry of economy and development shows that carbon emissions for electricity in Slovenia are 0.55kg. The yearly carbon emissions from use of electricity are thus 136323kg. By replacing 150 incandescent light bulbs with LED lights, we will save about 25920kWh, which amounts to 14256kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, or a 10.46% reduction of carbon emissions made by electricity use.

Calculating and following the average use of cars for transportation of goods and for transportation



between work and home, we have calculated that we can replace 6764km done by car with transport and personal bikes. Using numbers provided by ETA, we calculate we will save up till 16910kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

We will also reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by replacing water bottles for reusable glass flasks, but because of so many variables it is hard to give realistic numbers.

The combined yearly reduction of emissions will be at least *31166kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year*. In a country where electricity is a fairly sustainable resource and in a city committed to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, this is a very good result.

### **Saved Funds and ROI**

The cost of replacing light bulbs will be 1500€. By saving electricity consumption we will save 1245.2€/year, so the investment will start gaining profit after only 13 months. All the saved funds will go in to the ECO investment fund.

On average we sell about 200 bottles of water, which means 2400 per year. When we will replace them with glass flasks, that our guests will be able to reuse and take home, 0.5€ of every bottle sold will also go to the ECO investment fund. That amounts to 1200€ on a yearly basis. The cost for production will be around 2,5€ and the first order will equal to an approximate consumption for half a year, which is 1200 pieces or 3000€. We predict return of investment time at about half a year.

The ECO investment fund will also be supplemented by donations gathered from guests. They will have an option to pay addition 0,5€ for the fund, when paying for accommodations. Based on our preliminary research that shows one fifth of our guests are willing to do so, that will amount to 1500€ per year (avg. 15000 guests/year).

50% the donations from guests will go to directly to the fund, while the other half will be used for smaller projects that our guests will be able to vote for when donating. These smaller projects will be voted for every 6 months.

The ECO investment fund will be used to further improve our sustainability and to reduce our carbon footprint. The majority will be used for eventual construction of solar panels on our roof and installation of a heat pump.

### **Communication plan**

We will communicate our ideas and our sustainability values through our social media and our web page. The new web page that is being constructed will focus heavily on importance of sustainability, and feature many different additional offers and tour suggestions that have sustainability concepts in their cores.

The guests will be given some simple guidance on how to behave responsibly and sustainably when checking in.

We will continue to organize our sustainability festival and monthly clothes for food exchange, where our guests and locals will be able to exchange food for vintage clothing while the gathered food will be given to the local red cross. We will also host regular workshops and lectures on this topic.

**Click here to [VOTE](#)**