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Good practice

Comprehensive Waste Management Strategy for Large-Scale Events

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Background description

Problem addressed

Large-scale events often generate significant amounts of waste, contributing to environmental degradation and resource depletion.

Without proper management, this waste can end up in landfills, harming ecosystems and human health.

Developing the solution

Anatolia College has developed a comprehensive waste management strategy to minimize waste generation and promote recycling and reuse during its events. This includes collaboration with various organizations for waste collection, redistribution of surplus food, and recycling of paper and plastic.

Additionally, Anatolia College has implemented measures to reduce its environmental footprint, such as transitioning to renewable energy sources and banning plastic bottle sales on campus.

Background description

Objective, targets and expectations

The objective is to significantly reduce waste generation and increase recycling rates during large events, ultimately aiming for zero waste.

Targets include diverting a certain percentage of waste from landfills, increasing awareness among students, faculty and staff about waste reduction practices, and fostering a culture of sustainability within Anatolia College community.

The expectation is to create a model for sustainable event management that can be replicated by other institutions.



Implementation of the good practice

Timescale

The waste management strategy has been implemented gradually over the years, with ongoing efforts to improve and expand its scope.

Human and financial resources

The implementation of the waste management strategy requires collaboration among various departments within Anatolia College, including facilities management, event planning, and sustainability initiatives.

Staff members oversee waste collection, recycling, and awareness campaigns. Financial resources are allocated for waste collection services, infrastructure improvements, and educational programs.

Implementation of the good practice

Cross-sectoral and or cross-institutional cooperation

Anatolia College collaborates with several external organizations for waste management, including ANAKEM for construction waste collection, BOROUME for surplus food redistribution, and ELDIA for paper and plastic recycling.

Additionally, partnerships with social welfare organizations like DESMOS facilitate the donation of technology equipment.

Internally, the waste management strategy involves coordination between different departments and stakeholders across all Anatolia College divisions.

Evidences of success

Results achieved

Through the implementation of the waste management strategy, Anatolia College has significantly reduced its environmental impact during large events. Waste diversion rates have increased, with a greater proportion of materials being recycled or repurposed.

By banning the sale of plastic bottles on campus and installing water coolers, Anatolia College has saved almost 18,000 plastic bottles per month. Since the initiation of these measures in 2022, a total of 600,000 plastic bottles have been saved, contributing to a substantial decrease in plastic pollution and resource consumption.

These achievements underscore the effectiveness of proactive sustainability initiatives in mitigating environmental impact and fostering a culture of responsible consumption within Anatolia College community. Students, faculty and staff are more engaged in sustainable practices, leading to a shift in organizational culture towards greater environmental responsibility.

Lessons learnt

Challenges

Despite progress, challenges remain in achieving zero waste, particularly in areas such as waste sorting and contamination. Behavioral change among students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni can be difficult to achieve, requiring ongoing education and awareness efforts. Additionally, logistical challenges may arise in coordinating waste management activities across multiple departments and external partners.

Enabling actions

Key enabling actions include investing in infrastructure for waste collection and recycling, implementing educational programs to promote sustainable behavior change, fostering partnerships with external organizations for waste management services, and integrating sustainability principles into organizational policies and practices.

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Thank you!

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