

ES interview about waste management

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As students of the faculty of FHTMS we learn how important it is to maintain the environment for Aruba's tourism, locals and animals. With our Environmental Science class we have been introduced to different ways on how we can improve our carbon footprint. One way to improve air pollution in Aruba is to manage our waste. So, in order to get an idea about waste in Aruba we are conducting a part of the project about waste management at the Bucuti And Tara Beach Resort. We conducted an interview with Mrs. Nathaly Stanley who is the Sustainability and Certification Manager at Bucuti and Tara beach resort.

Bucuti and Tara Beach resort is located on one section of Aruba's Eagle Beach. At Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, they are just as passionate about nature and its beauty as you are. In fact, Bucuti is one of Aruba's and the Caribbean's, greenest hotels and has been since it was built in 1987. They are eco-pioneers, and creating a sustainable, eco-friendly resort is in place throughout the company's culture. Owner Ewald Biemans is a visionary in sustainable tourism, and has been the most prolific steward of Aruba's community for the environment. He makes sure that Bucuti Resort goes far beyond towel; and electricity-saving programs, and has made significant investments in eco-technologies and systems, as well as environmentally safe products. Environmental awareness has always been a major focus of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, and long before phrases like "ecotourism" and "eco-resorts" moved into the mainstream. By switching to a greener, eco-friendly types of paper for its resort marketing materials, by which Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort has been able to reduce waste water by 37,617 gallons, solid waste by 2,315 lb. and greenhouse gases by 7,936 lb.

First of all, her professional opinion on waste management in Aruba is that she believes that Bucuti and Tara resort does a lot more than other hotels/businesses in Aruba do in this area. She believes that if they are able to make their hotel eco-friendly; that other resorts can also do that in order to reduce waste in their resort or Aruba. In her opinion Bucuti is doing everything that they can to manage their waste in a positive manner. They are always looking for ways to improve their waste management system.

Secondly, her personal impression of waste management is that Aruba can do a lot better than what they are currently doing with the waste at the Aruban landfill “parkietenbos”. Due to the fact that she lived in the US, she compares Aruba to the US. When comparing the two, she states that in Aruba they do things very differently and not in a positive way for the environment. The differences are that in the states you can separate plastic, cans, glass, and they can all go to different places to be processed. Unlike Aruba that sends everything to the same landfill.

Thirdly, the desired future she has for waste management in Aruba is one with more recycling. She wants another waste system in order to replace the landfill at parkietenbos. Aruba’s waste management should become more environmentally friendlier, for example by recycling and separating your garbage into different piles. She believes that recycling is the best solution for everyone in Aruba.

Fourthly, an obstacle that Aruba faces in realizing an improved system of waste management is a financial one. Because it starts with a plan which later on they need to figure out who is going to execute it. Moreover, the cost for recycling is another obstacle for most Aruban family, because the cost being high; nobody wants to pay for it.

She does believe that there is a Market in Aruba for improved waste management. The guests that visit our island from the US and the Netherlands have a completely different mindset towards waste handling than the mentality of the Aruban population. They are used to recycling their waste. So, when the Aruba residents learn from the tourist's mentality, they will learn how to improve their waste management. This opens up a new market in Aruba for waste management.

Furthermore, Aruba can start by introducing more environmental taxes for the tourists and that can eventually help pay for a better waste management. Plus Ms. Nathaly suggested that in order to change the Aruban mentality in paying more for a better waste system has to start at home or at school. They are the future so if you change their mentality it can have a positive impact on the environment in the future.

Overall one can say that the way waste management is handled right now in Aruba it certainly impacts the future of Aruba. Especially due to the fact that as Aruba's landfill is located not too far away from the beach, it could damage our ocean, which is important for the tourism industry, where it simultaneously affects our marine ecosystem. The Bucuti and Tara Beach resort is adamant in maintaining their reputation in being an eco-friendly resort. Their motto is Reducing, reusing and recycling. They try to reduce their waste before it starts. They buy in huge quantity to be able to have a large container filled with waste instead of different little ones. They re-use cooking oil and they recycle the glass bottles and make drinking cups of them. Also, they use bed linen and turn them into laundry bags or gym towels. The resort makes sure that they recycle 49% of their waste and that they do not end up in the Island's landfill.