

# COMPENDIUM OF BEST PRACTICES

A brief report on sustainable  
tourism practices



# TOURISME

GREEN  
BUILDING

Improving Sustainability of Tourism SMEs  
Through Knowledge Transfer, International  
Cooperation and Multi-Stakeholder



Co-funded by the COSME programme  
of the European Union



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# INTRO DUCTION

Supported by the COSME programme of the European Union, this project revolves around the symbolics of windows. Not only they are associated with cars, trains and planes as well as also hotel rooms, but after all they represent opportunities, visions and inspirations- exactly what the TouriSME project wants to bring to SMEs operating in the field of tourism.



# GREEN BUILDING



Green building is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition. This practice expands and complements the classical building design concerns of economy, utility, durability, and comfort. Green building is also known as a sustainable or high-performance building.



# GREEN BUILDING



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Green buildings are designed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment by efficiently using energy, water, and other resources, protecting occupant health and improving employee productivity and reducing waste, pollution, and environmental degradation.

For example, green buildings may

incorporate sustainable materials in their construction, create healthy indoor environments with minimal pollutants (e.g., reduced product emissions), and/or feature landscaping that reduces water usage (e.g., by using native plants that survive without extra watering).

Hotels and similar accommodations may feel that they might not be able to adopt the concept of green

building because it will cost them too much money. However, it is simply a common misconception. While it may cost hotels and similar accommodation a bit more to get started when they decide to go green, because green materials and products can be more costly, they should imagine the type of savings that they will be able to reap.

Tourism sector activities:



Holiday and other  
short-stay  
accommodation

## Eco-renovation of an old accommodation



## Description of the initiative:

Old accommodations were not built considering the environmental impacts. Due to the emergence of the sustainability concept, it is now very important for old accommodations to renovate themselves as per the current requirements.

The Yök Casa Cultura during the eco-renovation reused everything in the space. Leftover wooden doors were turned into headrests and old lamps were rewired. A great effort was put into restoring and protecting the mosaic floors from 1900. New walls were put on top of the tiles so that, in case someone wants to go back to the original distribution in say, another 100 years, they can. The same goes for the decorative ceilings. All the wooden sliding balcony doors were stripped of their paint, received new railings and double glazing to save energy and reduce the noise. Furthermore, whenever possible they used recycled and recyclable materials. Their kitchens for example were made from reused pallets and an upcycled countertop by Cosentio. Before buying something new, they tried to find it second hand, like for example all their mirrors and bathroom sinks. They avoided PVC wherever possible, too. In the open areas, they are growing a bee-friendly plant pergola.

The Yök Casa Cultura in Barcelona (Spain) sets a prime example for others. The Yök Casa Cultura transformed an over 100-year-old space into three eco-friendly apartments and an office while respecting all its original features.

The renovation aimed to use materials wisely, making sure that they are recyclable and cradle to cradle where possible. A special effort was made to reduce the water and energy consumption in the apartments. Moreover, they give priority to locally designed and produced materials, products, and furniture to reduce transportation, support the local economy and promote the regional culture. The trick was to create apartments in which responsible living is possible without sacrificing the experience.

### More info:

[Yök Casa Cultura](#)

[Yök Casa Cultura  
Manifesto](#)





# Improving building envelope



Holiday and other short-stay accommodation



Hotels and similar accommodations

Tourism sector activities:

## Description of the initiative:

The building envelope, the boundary between the interior and exterior of a building, performs a number of tasks including exterior protection (e.g. protection from the elements) and preservation of internal space requirements (e.g. thermal, light, and acoustic comfort, humidity conditions). The use of a range of building technologies to create an energy-efficient building envelope reduces both the thermal energy lost to the building's surroundings and the amount of energy needed to heat and cool the building. Heating, cooling, and ventilation are responsible for huge utility costs. The technologies deployed can address several sources of energy loss such as air leakage, wet insulation, and thermal bridging. Installation options include:

- Building insulation
- Fenestration (i.e. windows, doors, skylights)
- High efficiency glazing
- Air sealing
- Cool/green roofing
- Advanced building facades

Among the benefits, these include significant reductions to building energy use for both heating and cool-

ing, and in the event of blackouts, buildings can remain hospitable for greater periods of time. However, some of the disadvantages include significant upfront costs resulting in long payback for energy efficient technologies, and the fact that highly insulated buildings have a higher risk of moisture-related damage.

Although the amount of energy saved depends on the building and the technologies used, though ENERGY STAR buildings have been shown to reduce operating costs for corporate real estate owners by up to \$25,000 per year for every 10,000 square feet of office space. Insulation and air sealing through effective air barrier systems can reduce non-residential building electricity consumption by more than 25%.

### More info:

[Facility Executive](#)

[Sustainable Buildings Initiative](#)





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This Compendium was based on a much more extensive one, with 100+ examples of good practices coming from across the world, existing in many different sectors and targeting various aspects of environmental management. The detailed Compendium publication can be found [here](#).

*The content of this publication represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Executive Agency for Small and*



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