WORKING MATERIAL 2.12 · CHAPTER 2 — THE OPERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (SECTIONS B, C AND D) · SETTING: MAUI, HAWAII, USA

Solid Waste, Food Waste and the Island Without a Landfill

Source: Francesco Dore, The Helm and the Lens, Volume 7a — GSTC Hotel Standard v4.0, subchapter 2.12 (book page 343)

GUIDING QUESTION

On an island, every tonne of waste either stays on the island or is shipped off it; there is no "away" to send it to. Most hotels nonetheless manage waste as if the truck that collects it were its final destination. What does the standard ask a hotel to know about what it throws out, and what changes when waste is weighed rather than collected?

1 · Verification Pact: market claims against the standard

Copied from the book. The last column is for your property: what holds here, and how you know it.

What is claimed	Binding?	What actually holds	In our property
Recycling bins in public areas show compliance with D6	Only partially true	D6.5 treats segregation infrastructure as a minimum; measurement, targets and pathways are separate indicators	
Counting collections is a measure of waste	No	D6.3 asks for total waste by type per guest night or occupied room	
Once the contractor collects the waste, it is no longer the hotel's concern	No	D6.7 requires legally authorised or recognised pathways for all waste not recovered on site	
The standard bans single-use plastics	No	D6.6 asks for monitoring and actions to eliminate or reduce, prioritising high-impact items	
Every hotel must install a composter	No	The guidelines call for additional infrastructure where appropriate to size and waste volume	
Group-level waste figures are sufficient	No	The guidelines require property-level performance to be clearly distinguishable	

2 · Common mistakes — a self-check

Tick each mistake you recognise in your own property, and note where it shows.

☐ Measuring waste by collections and invoices rather than by weight and type.

☐ Installing visible recycling bins while the contents go into a single stream.

☐ Starting with recycling instead of reducing what is bought and prepared.

☐ Leaving banquet and buffet margins unreviewed for years.

☐ Sending mattresses, linens and furniture to the dumpster without considering reuse.

☐ Handing used cooking oil, batteries and electronics to collectors without documentation.

☐ Reporting group totals in which the property's own performance cannot be seen.

☐ Announcing a zero-waste claim before a single bag has been weighed.

3 · A Checklist for Following Waste to Its Destination

The book's checklist, with a column for your own answer.

Question	Why it matters	Our answer
Do we know our total waste by type per guest night or occupied room, every month?	D6.3 asks for measurement by type in a comparable unit	
Does our plan start with reduction, or with recycling?	D6.2 requires a plan according to the waste hierarchy	
Where does each stream go after collection, and what document shows it?	D6.7 requires legally authorised or recognised pathways	
Who handles our used oil, batteries and electronic waste?	The guidelines call for specialised handlers	
Which single-use items do we buy, and what is our target for each?	D6.6 asks for monitoring and actions, prioritising high-impact items	
Are staff trained on sorting, with records, and are guests told what to do?	D6.8 and D6.9 require training and guest guidance	

4 · What would show this is working

Questions drawn from the subchapter's reading of the standard and its practical application. Indicator references point to the GSTC Hotel Standard v4.0; where the evidence lives is this book's practice, not a requirement of the standard.

Question	Where the evidence lives	Seen?
Is there a written waste policy and a plan following the Waste Hierarchy (D6.1, D6.2)?	Policy and waste management plan	☐
Is solid waste measured by type per guest night or occupied room, at least recyclables, food waste and residual (D6.3)?	Monthly indicator log, waste sheet; weighing records	☐
Are annual reduction targets set and tracked (D6.4)?	Target table and results	☐
Is waste not recovered on site handled through legally authorised pathways (D6.7)?	Collection receipts; documentation of receiving facilities	☐
Are single-use items monitored and reduced (D6.6)?	Single-use item record	☐
Do staff receive training with records, and guests guidance on sorting (D6.8, D6.9)?	Training records; guest cards and signage	☐

> *What this sheet is not: the GSTC Hotel Standard does not prescribe this form. It is a working aid drawn from the book; the standard's criteria, indicators and guidelines govern the real case. Independent material; not affiliated with or endorsed by the GSTC. The standard's own text at www.gstc.org prevails.*