

Discover the Real Cyprus-Village Routes. A project to regenerate rural economy, conserve natural resources and protect the environment.



Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative

**CSTI
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CSTI Helps the Hotel Industry Conserve Water and Energy

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) launched a project earlier this year with the subject of Water and Energy Conservation within the Cyprus Hotel Industry. This six-month study is sponsored by the Travel Foundation (UK) and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

The object of the project has been firstly to create an awareness within the hotel sector not only of the necessity to conserve water and energy but also of the means by which these invaluable resources can be saved; secondly, to monitor the consumption of water and energy throughout the six-month period.

The initial step was to enlist the participation of a sample segment of hotels, holiday villages and hotel apartments in each of the main tourist resorts on the island and also in the island's capital, Nicosia. To this end, over a hundred properties from Polis to Protaras were visited and the project was presented to the management teams and, on occasion, to the owners of these units.

In general, the idea behind this survey was applauded and received with enthusiasm. However, the sample can be divided into three groups; those cooperating fully no matter how busy they have been, even during the peak season; those pleading overwork and promising to participate at a later date; and those, despite their initial agreement to be part of the sample, failing to respond to all phone calls and e-mails.

Of the properties expressing an interest to take part in the research, over 50% have been totally committed from the outset and have been willing to complete questionnaires, share ideas on water and energy saving methods and to submit monthly figures showing consumption of water and energy plus the number of sleepers for each of the months from May to October 2007 / 2008.

With these figures it has been possible to calculate the average consumption of water and energy per sleeper (guest) for each month of the project and to compare this with the average for the same month of the previous



year. These figures are naturally completely confidential, but on an individual hotel basis, the procedure has highlighted the properties whose efforts at conservation are bearing fruit; while also acting as a prompt to those units needing to try a little harder!

The project is now in its final phase and as the last of the figures are submitted, and the data collated, the average consumption will be ascertained according to region and star-rating /category, and of course Cyprus-wide.

As an incentive to the properties in the sample segment and in recognition of their cooperation and commitment, a prize will be awarded to the hotel achieving the greatest savings in water and energy consumption. The award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative on Wednesday 22 October 2008.

The CSTI Water and Energy Saving Project commenced in May 2008 and will terminate with a presentation of the findings at London's World Travel Market this coming November.

Andreas Gregoriou,
Water and Energy Saving Project Manager and
Chairman of the Cyprus
Hotel Managers' Association

CSTI Receives CTO Award



From left to right: Mr. Philippos Drousiotis, Chairman of CSTI; Mr. Panos Englezos, Chairman of CTO; and Minister of Commerce and Tourism, Mr. Antonis Paschalides.

On September 29th 2008, the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative received an award from the Cyprus Tourism Organization in recognition of CSTI's contribution to the development and promotion of sustainable tourism in Cyprus.

The award was given during the 'Tourism Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change' dinner at the Hilton Park Hotel in Nicosia which was organized by the Cyprus Tourism Organization to celebrate the International Day of Tourism. CSTI Chairman, Philippos Drousiotis, received the award on behalf of the organization: "I want to thank the CTO for this award and for their support to CSTI and its programmes; it is good that CTO is doing more work on sustainable tourism" said Mr. Drousiotis in his acceptance speech. The Minister of Commerce and Tourism, Mr. Antonis Paschalides, who preceded the award ceremony, also congratulated CSTI for the Water and Energy Saving Initiative.

CSTI would like to thank the Cyprus Tourism Organization for the award. This well deserved recognition encourages CSTI to continue promoting the development of a sustainable approach to tourism in Cyprus.

Solid Waste Management Conference

Cyprus produces about 570,000 tons of waste annually of which 88% goes into landfill. Much of this waste can be recycled. To raise awareness on the issue of solid waste and to improve the practice of solid waste management with the tourism service providers, visitors and the general public, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, CSTI is planning a conference which will take place in May 2009.

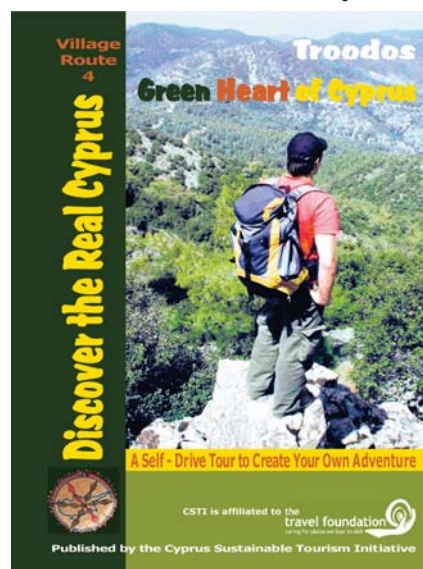
The conference will bring together representatives of European organizations and local organizations involved in waste management in Cyprus to share ideas, experiences and lessons learned, to help

Troodos-Green Heart of Cyprus Discover the Real Cyprus Village Route 4

A large part of this Village Route is known as the Commandaria region which takes its name from the famous wine of the island that is produced in the area. The route -the fourth in a series of Village Routes developed by CSTI- takes the visitor to 25 rural communities in the Troodos region which rises between 400 and 1400 meters of altitude and gives panoramic views of the southern part of the island, specifically the city of Limassol, the Salt Lake and the Peninsula of Akrotiri, as well as a view of the central plain of Mesaoria, Nicosia-the capital of the island - and the Pentadaktylos Mountains in the northern occupied part of the island.

The route gives the visitor the opportunity to admire the beautiful terraced vineyards that produce a variety of indigenous and non-local types of grapes, to buy traditional local products from one of the producers on the route, to visit beautiful Byzantine churches including St. Nicolas tis Stegis and Kykkos Monastery, to travel back in time at the Folk Art Museum of Pedoulas, to see the oldest wine press (linos) of Cyprus in Lania, to hear the history of pottery making at the Pylavakis Pottery Museum in Foini and to learn about the geology and fauna of Cyprus at the Troodos Environmental Centre. The visitor can enjoy a picnic in one of the many picnic areas, cycle, or follow one of the many nature trails. The book is available at the price of €4.00.

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organizations involved in waste management gain a better understanding of the situation in Cyprus and to identify opportunities for developing initiatives for solid waste management. Also, the conference will help organizations involved in waste management understand what the constraints are on implementing waste management initiatives and produce an agreement among participating local organizations on a common goal and implementation strategy.