



United Nations  
Environment Programme

# Low Carbon and Resource Efficient Action Plan for Accommodation in Saint Lucia

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## Ministerial Foreword

**T**he tourism sector in Saint Lucia is a key driver of economic progress, contributing to the creation of employment and business opportunities. However, tourism development also places significant pressure on natural resources, and makes a significant contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and waste generation. This action plan calls for essential and urgent change at policy and business level to address these impacts and seeks to engage all stakeholders to work together to transform the tourism value chain.

It is our collective role and responsibility to ensure that tourism growth and economic development are not realised at the expense of the natural environment and are not dependent on ever increasing resource consumption. Instead, we envision a tourism sector known for sustainable production and consumption, energy efficient policies and practices, adoption of renewable energies, responsible waste management, water conservation and reduced GHG emissions.

Progressive and strategic policy making has a crucial role to play in decoupling tourism growth from carbon emissions and the consumption of natural resources. Such public sector leadership must be matched by commitment and action from tourism value chain businesses, in order to contribute to a sustainable future for Saint Lucia as a tourist destination, the tourism industry and the wellbeing and security of its residents.

The Government of Saint Lucia will provide strong and strategic governance, shaping policies and legislation to incentivise action by the public and private sectors. This Ministry intends to lead by example, supporting tourism business to overcome the challenges and enabling them to make the transition to a low carbon sector – thereby contributing to the prosperity of Saint Lucia. This can only be effective, however, with support and engagement at business level, where partnerships, collaboration and mutual learning will be essential to truly transform the tourism value chain. The programmes contained in this plan have been developed based on those exact principles; inclusion, collaboration and partnerships.

The same principles should apply to the OECS region, as the tourism industry is vital for all the members states. We must come together to develop strategic regional policies, build capacity, share knowledge, infrastructure and resources in order to protect our beautiful islands, unique tourism products and enhance the productivity of the region for the benefit of all.

The challenge we face is significant, but it also offers an opportunity for leadership and ambition. This action plan sets out a clear pathway; by travelling it together we will build a thriving, sustainable, resource-efficient tourism sector that safeguards not only our economic future but the natural environment on which it – and we – depend.

**Dominic Fedee**

*Minister of Tourism, Information and Broadcasting, Culture and Creative Industries*

# SLHTA Foreword

**T**he ability of tourism to exponentially increase the resident population and market size of a destination is irrefutable. Small island developing states welcome this floodgate of economic possibilities and the consequent impact on employment, linkages and cultural exchange. Notwithstanding these socio-economic promises however, the increased environmental impact of mass tourism must be measured and attended to with haste if we are to safeguard these ecosystems and leave a sensible legacy for future generations.

But this logic is self-evident. The substantive challenge facing us now is the need to take massive action on the recommendations of the myriad of studies presented to us, pointing to the critical importance of incorporating sustainable tourism practices into our everyday business operations. Leadership by example becomes critical in order to shift the needle and create ripples of sustainable practices across the economic landscape.

The Low Carbon and Resource Efficient Action Plan for Accommodation in Saint Lucia articulates such a game plan and provokes leaders to champion actionable steps to raise awareness, improve skills and build partnerships toward common goals. The document must be treated for

what it is and its instructions incorporated into every level of public and private sector engagement.

The Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association (SLHTA) commends our members for participating in the discussions leading to the creation of this document. We reaffirm our commitment to action and will continue to support our various organs such as our Tourism Enhancement Fund, our SLHTA Environmental Committee and our SLHTA Chefs' Table in their advocacy for sharing best practices among our member and partners.

In many respects the work has only just started but we are delighted with the collaboration of partners such as The Travel Foundation, the UN Environment Programme and various other international bodies to create this blueprint for action. We look forward to expanding this relationship and to holding our various constituents responsible for its incorporation into our everyday operations. Together, we can surely meet the targets which we have collectively set for ourselves.

**Mr. Noorani M. Azeez**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association Inc.

# Executive Summary

**T**his action plan is for policy makers, destination planners and managers, and private sector industry stakeholders. It explains how to make the accommodation value chain more sustainable, reducing the negative impacts of tourism, such as marine pollution and environmental degradation, and its high demands on natural resources. Taking action now will secure a better environmental, social and economic future for Saint Lucia.

Tourism is crucial not only for Saint Lucia but for the entire Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) region, therefore this action plan also provides top-level regional recommendations.

The Saint Lucian accommodation value chain has been carefully mapped and analysed, including all activities that happen within a hotel and those needed to supply them, such as electricity generation. Where there was a lack of data from within Saint Lucia, proxy data from similar Caribbean islands, such as Antigua, British Virgin Island and the Dominican Republic, has been used to complete the analysis.

As a result, sustainability 'hotspots' within the accommodation value chain have been identified. Food production is associated with an estimated 43% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, electricity generation 30%, and transportation related to tourism 9%.

To track progress of the implementation of this action plan, six main targets have been established for the accommodation sector and its suppliers, to be achieved by 2030 from a 2020 baseline<sup>1</sup>:

**Overall target:**  
**30% reduction in GHG emissions associated with the accommodation sector and its suppliers**

## Targets:

- **25% reduction in energy consumption** of the accommodation sector
- **20% of energy** consumed by the accommodation sector is **from renewable sources**
- **30% reduction** in the amount of **waste** generated by the accommodation sector
- **100% reduction in single-use plastic** procured by the accommodation sector
- **50% reduction in food waste** generated by the accommodation sector

To achieve these targets, the action plan focuses on energy and waste as priority areas, through two main programmes:

## 1. Smart Energy.



This programme aims to reduce the amount of energy consumed by the accommodation sector and its value chain. Recommendations for government and its agencies focus on creating an enabling environment through measures such as adequate policy formulation and enforcement. Incentives will be provided to increase energy efficiency, promote electric vehicles for tourism-related transportation and improve renewable energy infrastructure. Recommendations for private sector businesses focus on reducing fossil fuel consumption through increasing energy efficiency and use of renewables and developing solutions to reduce transportation of people and products.

## 2. Towards Zero Waste.



This programme aims to reduce the amount of waste generated by the accommodation sector, working towards the goal of zero waste. Recommendations for government and agencies focus on improving waste management infrastructure and fostering the recycling sector. It is about bringing stakeholders together to develop solutions tailored to the accommodation sector and its value chain.

Recommendations for hotels focus on rethinking needs, for products and services as well as operations, the use of ambitious voluntary pledges, and initiatives to encourage the uptake of sustainable procurement practices to reduce waste generation – particularly regarding plastic and food. Since the island is facing challenges posed by increasing waste generation, such as limited infrastructure and land constraints for waste management, businesses are also encouraged to collaborate with academies, research institutes and public sector partners to develop technologies and relevant circular procurement approaches.

A third set of actions, namely **Supportive actions**, that are relevant to both programmes, is also proposed.

The implementation of the action plan will build upon, and create synergies with, initiatives already underway in the areas of energy and waste reduction. Its effectiveness will require local ownership and public and private partnership including mutual learning and support, expertise-sharing and effective communication. To this end, an implementation plan is being developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Finally, the recommendations for the OECS region within this action plan focus on reduction of energy consumption and waste generation by scaling up the actions recommended for Saint Lucia. This includes the creation of regional forums to share energy and waste management expertise, regional awareness-raising campaigns, provision of information, training and resources at OECS level, adopting holistic approaches for sustainable energy development, and an integrated waste management system for the region taking advantage of economies of scale. Policies will also be reviewed and aligned, working towards a low carbon and resource efficient OECS tourism industry. ■

<sup>1</sup> The reduction targets for GHG emissions, energy consumption and waste generation will be measured against the Business-As-Usual (BAU) emissions projections in line with the Nationally Determined Contribution of Saint Lucia.

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## Helpful definitions of terms used in the action plan

A **value chain** is the entire sequence of activities or parties that provide products or services used in tourism

An **environmental hotspot** is an activity or process which accounts for a significant proportion of the negative environmental impact in the value chain

The **GHG Protocol Corporate Standard** classifies a company's **GHG emissions** into three 'scopes':

- **Scope I** emissions are **direct emissions** from owned or controlled sources by a hotel such as vehicles.
- **Scope II** emissions are **indirect emissions** from the generation of purchased energy consumed by a hotel such as electricity used for air conditioning
- **Scope III** emissions are all **indirect emissions that occur in the value chain** (not included in scope II) including upstream emissions, such as those generated during the production of products and services that hotels purchase (e.g. imported food) and downstream emissions such as those generated from hotel waste.

## SECTION 1

# Introduction

In 2017, overnight visitors to Saint Lucia totalled more than twice its resident population and, if cruise visitors are added, then the total number of tourists is almost six times that of year-round residents. Tourism brings economic development as well as cultural and social benefits, but its growth has also significantly increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, pressure on energy and water resources, and the creation of waste.

This poses a threat to the environment and to Saint Lucia as a viable and desirable tourism product.

**The vision of this action plan is to support Saint Lucia to become a sustainable, competitive and resilient destination, a model of environmental responsibility and stewardship of resources, ensuring inclusive economic benefit and quality of life for its citizens, whilst offering a distinctive and high-quality visitor experience.**

By transforming its tourism value chain to improve resource efficiency and reduce GHG emissions, Saint Lucia will increase its competitiveness and resilience, and meet its national and international commitments to climate change mitigation.

The two programmes of the action plan have a particular focus on energy and waste as priority areas, with solutions that can be delivered through government strategy and policy development.

These particular programmes were selected and designed because:

- they provide a comprehensive, multi-level process to address priority hotspots identified by stakeholders;
- they align with the wider vision for Saint Lucia as well as its national, regional and international sustainability obligations; and
- they are considered the most appropriate and feasible in the context of Saint Lucia.

## Working together

The **development process** of this action plan took over 18 months and followed five key phases:

1. Identification and engagement of stakeholders at national and regional level to form the Stakeholder Advisory Group (STAG)<sup>1</sup>
2. Data collection and analysis<sup>2</sup>
3. Value chain mapping and identification of hotspots<sup>2</sup>
4. Stakeholder consultation process through workshops, regular STAG meetings and bilateral meetings with key stakeholders
5. Drafting and validating the action plan

The **implementation of this plan** will require collective work and partnerships to guarantee its success and sustainability. This action plan will be supplemented with an implementation plan developed in close collaboration with stakeholders.

## Who is the action plan for?

- Government ministries, agencies and departments
- Accommodation staff (management, procurement, operations)
- Tour operators
- Accommodation sector suppliers
- Trade bodies and associations
- Certification bodies
- Non-governmental organisations
- Local communities
- Universities and training institutions



<sup>1</sup> See acknowledgements  
<sup>2</sup> UN Environment (2018) Overview And Hotspots Analysis Of The Tourism Value Chain In Saint Lucia. [http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/iki\\_country\\_report\\_saint\\_lucia\\_final.pdf](http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/iki_country_report_saint_lucia_final.pdf)

SECTION 2

# Tourism and sustainability

Saint Lucia has a diverse tourism offer but is particularly recognised as a luxury and boutique destination. Tourism has been the fastest growing sector over the last two decades, replacing agriculture as the primary economic mainstay. Overall visitor arrivals have increased by almost 30% in the last decade.

This success represents at the same time a threat to the sustainability of the sector. The growth of tourism increases the demand for already scarce natural resources, particularly energy and water, and the generation of waste, with the subsequent increase of greenhouse gas emissions. Decoupling tourism growth from carbon emissions is a priority to minimise the negative impacts of tourism. In order to reduce those, it is crucial to understand their magnitude to establish appropriate and effective mitigation measures. ■

## Country and tourism facts



POPULATION:  
**180,870**

World Resources Institute (2012). CAIT Climate Data Explorer. <https://cait.wri.org/profile/Saint%20Lucia>



AREA:  
**617 sq km**



TOURIST ARRIVALS:  
**1.2m**

Data source: Ministry of Tourism, 2018



PROJECTED GROWTH:  
**3% p.a.**

Gros Islet

Castries



## Infrastructure challenges



98% of electricity from imported oil. Only 2% from combustible renewables and waste.



Insufficient waste management and recycling infrastructure. An estimated 44% of waste landfilled is recyclable. Nevertheless, the low volumes, low market price, lack of economic incentives and other factors impact the viability of the recycling sector.



Water supply, treatment and distribution deficiencies produce water shortages.

## Impacts of tourism



GHG EMISSIONS:  
**13%**

GHG emissions estimated to be from tourism these include emissions embedded in food and materials that hotels procure



WATER:  
**17%**

of water is consumed by the hotel sector



ENERGY:  
**20%**

of the commercial sector energy demand estimated to be from hotels

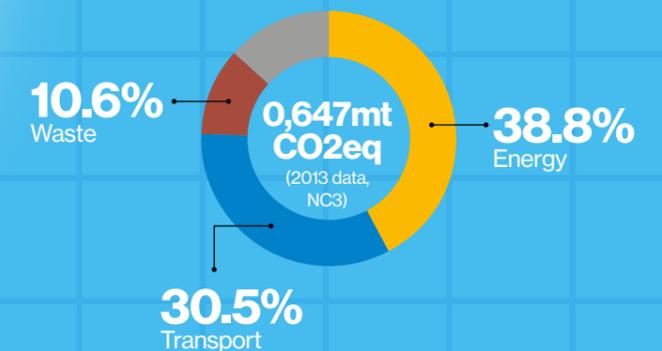


WASTE:  
**8%**

of national waste is produced by hotels



SAINT LUCIA EMITS:



Soufriere

Vieux Fort



NUMBER OF LARGE HOTELS:  
**18**



NUMBER OF SMALL HOTELS:  
**28**



VILLAS & COTTAGES:  
**112**



OCCUPANCY RATES:  
**66%**

Data source: Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association, 2018



NUMBER OF ROOMS:  
**5,078**



CONTRIBUTION TO GDP:  
**15%** (direct)

World Travel and Tourism Council, (2018), Travel & Tourism Economic impact in Saint Lucia, 2018. <https://www.wttc.org/economic-impact/>



CONTRIBUTION TO GDP:  
**41.8%** (indirect)



DIRECT JOBS:  
**26.4%**



INDIRECT JOBS:  
**50.8%**

World Travel and Tourism Council, (2018), Travel & Tourism Economic impact in Saint Lucia, 2018. <https://www.wttc.org/economic-impact/>

SECTION 3

# Saint Lucia policy context

Saint Lucia has a number of international climate change mitigation commitments, which this action plan will support the country to fulfil.

Saint Lucia, through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)<sup>1</sup> has set targets of 16% and 23% greenhouse gas emission reductions, against business as usual projections, by 2025 and 2030 respectively. In order to deliver them, Saint Lucia will be required to reduce its energy generation needs by 11% by 2025, and to meet 50% of its energy requirements through renewables by 2050.

As the main economic driver, tourism can play a key role in the achievement of national and international targets.

This action plan is aligned with the strategies of the Saint Lucia government, its Ministry of Tourism and other relevant Ministries, and aims to make sustainable practice ‘business as usual’ in the tourism sector and its value chain. ■

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015), Intended Nationally Determined Contribution Under The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Saint%20Lucia%20First/Saint%20Lucia's%20INDC%2018th%20November%202015.pdf>

SECTOR	Climate change and environment	Tourism	Waste	Energy	Water
<b>BODIES &amp; MANDATE</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development:</b> Guides the making and implementation of <b>policy and initiatives</b> relating to climate change and environmental management.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development and Environment Division (SDED):</b> Responsible for the formulation of major <b>national policy, strategy</b> and advisories on climate change and environmental management.</p> <p><b>National Climate Change Committee (NCCC):</b> Provides advice and support for, and monitors the implementation of, national climate change programmes and activities.</p> <p><b>National Environmental Commission (NEC):</b> Advisory body to the Cabinet of Ministers for environmental management in Saint Lucia.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology (MSDEST):</b> Promotes: environmental management and innovative technologies; building capacity to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and demonstrating the value of building a green economy.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Tourism, Information and Broadcasting:</b> Directs <b>policy</b> and manages tourism development incentives.</p> <p><b>Saint Lucia Tourism Authority:</b> Responsibility for product development and marketing.</p>	<p><b>Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA):</b> Manages, regulates, controls and treats waste.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour:</b> Responsible for the management and implementation of major public infrastructure and policy aspects relating to port management, public utilities, renewable energy and labour relations.</p> <p><b>National Utilities Regulatory Commission (NURC):</b> Licensing and regulation of electricity generation from all sources.</p>	<p><b>National Utilities Regulatory Commission (NURC):</b> Regulates the supply of utilities in St Lucia, including water.</p> <p><b>Water Resources Management Agency:</b> Responsible for managing, monitoring and measuring water resources, developing plans and allocation schemes.</p> <p><b>Water and Sewerage Company Inc. (WASCO):</b> Company owned by the Government which is responsible for developing and managing water supply and sewerage facilities.</p>
<b>KEY POLICY</b>	<p><b>National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018-2028</b></p> <p><b>Climate Change Adaptation Policy (CCAP) (2015)</b> provides a framework for addressing the impacts of climate change in an integrated manner across all key sectors.</p> <p><b>National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (NASAP) (2016 to 2021)</b> aims to address the anticipated adverse effects of climate change on the tourism sector.</p> <p><b>National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) (2004),</b> provides the broad framework for environmental management in Saint Lucia.</p> <p><b>Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017) for the Ministry for Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology,</b> intends to achieve sustainable development on a platform of integrated and effective environmental management.</p> <p><b>Approved hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) Phase Out Management Plan.</b></p> <p><b>Ban on importation of Styrofoam, “selected plastic food service containers” June 1, 2019</b></p> <p><b>Code of practice for Refrigerant and Air Conditioners</b> developed in draft form.</p> <p>Planned / in progress: <b>Environmental Management Bill</b></p> <p><b>Climate Change Bill</b></p> <p><b>The Management of Beverage Containers Bill</b></p>	<p><b>Saint Lucia Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2013</b> advocates a strategy for St Lucia as a destination which includes being more energy efficient and more climate sound.</p> <p><b>Tourism Incentives Act</b></p> <p>Planned / in progress: <b>Tourism Strategy and Action Plan review</b></p>	<p><b>Waste Management Act No 8 of 2004 and Amendment Act. No 10 of 2007.</b></p> <p><b>National Waste Management Strategy 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Electricity Supply Act No. 10 (1994) and Amendments, (Revised Edition, 2008)</b></p> <p><b>Cabinet Conclusion N°464 (1999)</b> eliminating import duties and consumption taxes on renewable energy equipment.</p> <p><b>National Energy Efficiency Labelling Standards</b> (Air-Conditioning units, tubular and compact fluorescent lamps).</p> <p><b>National Energy Policy (2010) and National Energy Plan (2010),</b> aims to create an enabling environment, both regulatory and institutional, for the introduction of indigenous renewable energy to the national energy mix.</p> <p><b>Saint Lucia National Energy Transition Strategy and Integrated Resource Plan (2018)</b></p> <p>Planned / in progress <b>Draft Electricity Services Bill</b></p> <p><b>Draft Energy Efficiency Bill and Regulations</b></p> <p><b>Draft Geothermal Development Bill</b></p>	<p><b>Water and Sewerage Act No. 14 of 2005</b></p> <p>Planned / in progress: <b>National Wastewater Management Strategic Plan</b></p> <p><b>Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Program</b></p>

SECTION 4

# Priority hotspots in Saint Lucia's tourism value chain

Mapping out the tourism value chain provides the 'big picture' related to the activities, stakeholders and impacts associated with the tourism sector.

This graphic shows a summary of the priority environmental issues or "hotspots" identified throughout the value chain of hotels and restaurants in Saint Lucia.

It indicates where action should be focused to have the largest effect on reducing GHG emissions and improving resource efficiency.

Where there is a lack of data for the tourism sector in Saint Lucia, some proxy data from similar islands such as Antigua, the British Virgin Islands and the Dominican Republic was used to complete the hotspot analysis

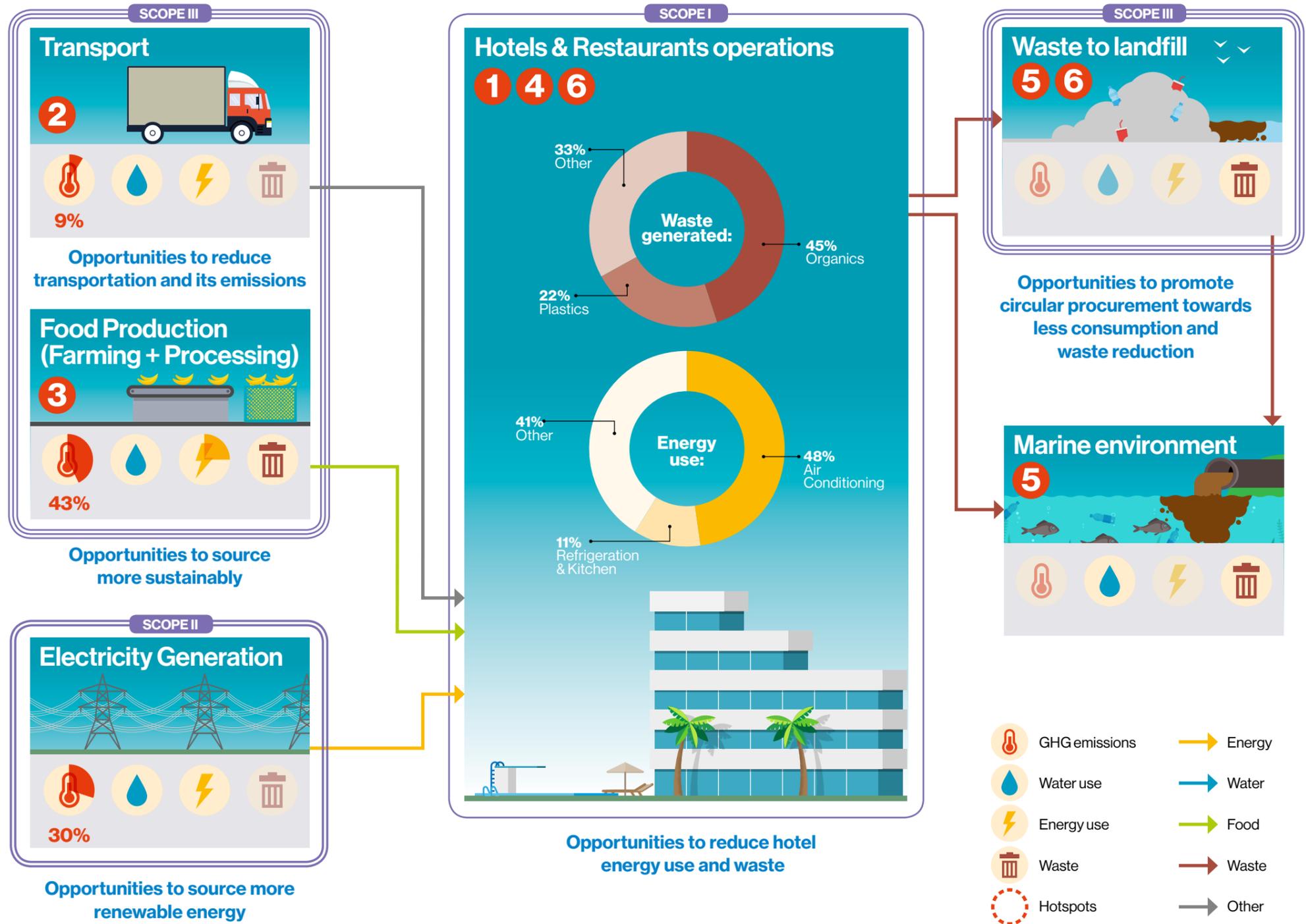
## The three main areas with the highest GHG emissions are:

→ **Food production.** Including farming and processing, food accounts for around 43% of the GHG emissions associated with hotels and restaurants.

→ **Electricity generation.** Electricity that is purchased and used by hotels and restaurants represents 30% of GHG emissions.

→ **Transportation related to tourism.** Including food distribution and the domestic transportation of tourists accounts for 9% of GHG emissions.

Data source: Eora Version 199.82, 2013 (<http://www.worldmrio.com/>)



## PRIORITY HOTSPOTS IDENTIFIED IN SAINT LUCIA<sup>1</sup>

Each one of the numbered boxes to the right represents a significant environmental impact hotspot identified by project partners and tourism stakeholders in Saint Lucia.



### 1 Hotel and restaurant activities using energy.

Lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). Air conditioning in Caribbean hotels is estimated to account for 48% of electricity bills<sup>2</sup>.



### 2 Tourism-related transportation.

Transportation associated with tourism includes distribution of food products (60-65% of the food used in tourism is imported) and transportation of tourists participating in tours, excursions or using taxis and hire cars (excluding international travel).



### 3 Primary production of produce and meat and dairy products.

GHG emissions from the rearing of livestock. Use of fertilizers and methane from organic waste. Fuel use for in-field operations and energy used in processing, chilling, freezing. Water used for livestock and to grow crops. In-field, unharvested and post-harvest crop waste estimates are up to 20%.



### 4 Direct solid waste generation in hotels and restaurants.

Solid waste from hotels has remained constant, averaging 8% for the last 5 years<sup>3</sup>. Organic material represents 45%, plastics 22% and paper and paperboard 10% of total waste landfilled. Only 16% of waste is recycled, mainly metals and oil<sup>4</sup>.



### 5 Waste and pollution from single use items.

Waste from single-use plastic products creating litter and marine pollution, damaging natural environments and marine life. Plastic waste accounts for an estimated 22% of national waste, most of this is plastic bottles.



### 6 Food waste in hotels and restaurants.

Organic material represents 45% of waste in Saint Lucia. Some hotels surveyed in Saint Lucia divert food waste towards animal rearing, although there is room for improvement to spread such practices across the entire sector and to minimise food waste at source.

1 UN Environment (2018) Overview And Hotspots Analysis Of The Tourism Value Chain In Saint Lucia.  
 2 United4efficiency, (2018), Caribbean Cooling Initiative (C-Cool) Concept Paper.  
 3 Information provided by the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (2019)  
 4 Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority, (2017) Saint Lucia Waste Management Strategy

# Targets

To help track progress, the following targets to be achieved by 2030 from a 2020 baseline have been set in consultation with local stakeholders:

## 30% reduction in GHG emissions associated with the accommodation sector and its suppliers<sup>1</sup>

**25% reduction** in energy consumption of the accommodation sector

**20% of energy** consumed by the accommodation sector is from renewable sources

**30% reduction** in the amount of waste generated by the accommodation sector

**100% reduction** in single-use plastic procured by the accommodation sector

**50% reduction** in food waste generated by the accommodation sector

They have been set using regional studies and international case studies and they are aligned with national targets and international commitments pledged by Saint Lucia. These targets were validated by local stakeholders.

The following table provides a five-year breakdown of the targets and illustrates their relation to environmental hotspots and the Sustainable Development Goals. The monitoring and evaluation of these targets is described in Section 10. ■

1 The reduction targets for GHG emissions, energy consumption and waste generation will be measured against the Business-As-Usual (BAU) emissions projections in line with the Nationally Determined Contribution of Saint Lucia.  
 2 This target focuses on the elements within scope 3 that are associated with the largest amounts of GHG emissions, which according to the Eora global supply chain database (<https://www.worldmrio.com>) are waste and purchased food. These are also the parts of the value chain that accommodation providers can easily influence within their own activities such as through implementing sustainable procurement and reducing the generation of waste.  
 3 Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Programme (CHENACT), (2012), Energy Efficiency and Micro-Generation in Caribbean Hotels Consultancy Final Report <http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/downloads/CHENACT-Final-Report.pdf>  
 4 Alessi. et al., (2018). Out of the plastic trap: saving the Mediterranean from plastic pollution. WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Rome, Italy. p.8. <https://wwf.fi/mediabank/11094.pdf>. (Original source: Andrady A.L., 2011, Microplastics in the marine environment. Mar. Pollut. Bull., 62, 1596-1605)  
 5 Clowes et al, 2017, The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Hotels, Champions 12.3. <https://champions123.org/the-business-case-for-reducing-food-loss-and-waste-hotels/>

	2020	2025	2030	SDGs	Hotspots
 <h3>GHG emissions</h3> <p>The headline target is to <b>reduce the GHG emissions associated with the accommodation sector and its suppliers by 30 % by 2030</b> from a 2020 baseline<sup>1</sup>, this is in line with the national GHG emissions target.</p> <p>Analysis carried out in the preparation of this action plan suggests that this target can be mostly achieved through interventions that have positive financial returns for hotels and that are readily available, such as replacing air conditioning units with more efficient ones and reducing food waste.</p>	Accommodation providers representing at least 30% of rooms are monitoring GHG emissions.	<b>20% reduction</b> in GHG emissions in Scope I – III <sup>2</sup> (fuel, electricity, food, waste).	<b>30% reduction</b> in GHG emissions in Scope I – III <sup>2</sup> (fuel, electricity, food, waste).		
 <h3>Energy</h3> <p>Most of the energy consumed by hotels comes from fossil fuels. According to the audits carried out with hotels in Saint Lucia and other Caribbean hotels under the CHENACT<sup>3</sup> programme this target can easily be achieved by implementing a Utility Management Plan that includes energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.</p>	Accommodation providers representing at least 30% of rooms are monitoring energy consumption .	<b>15% reduction</b> in the energy consumption of the accommodation sector	<b>25% reduction</b> in the energy consumption of the accommodation sector.		
 <h3>Solid waste</h3> <p>Improper waste management causes air, water and soil pollution, discharging carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere and chemicals and pesticides into the earth and groundwater. Reducing waste generation will mean that supplies and materials are being used more efficiently and the costs of disposal are reduced.</p>	Accommodation providers representing at least 30% of rooms are monitoring waste.	<b>20% reduction</b> in the amount of waste generated by the accommodation sector.	<b>30% reduction</b> in the amount of waste generated by the accommodation sector.		
 <h3>Plastic waste</h3> <p>Up to 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution worldwide comes from land sources<sup>4</sup>. This target aims to eliminate selected single-use plastics items (such as plastic straws, cups and cutlery) all together, focusing on procurement and therefore ultimately reducing plastic waste. Indispensable single-use items should be replaced with environmentally friendly alternatives.</p>	Accommodation providers representing at least 30% of rooms nights are monitoring single-use plastic procurement.	<b>75% reduction</b> in single-use plastic procured by the accommodation sector.	<b>100% reduction</b> in single-use plastic procured by the accommodation sector.		
 <h3>Food waste</h3> <p>A recent study<sup>5</sup> showed that 42 hotels measuring food waste were able to reduce it by an average 21% in one year, suggesting that a 50% reduction in ten years – in line with SDG target 12.3 – is feasible. Hotels made \$7 profit for every \$1 invested in reducing food waste. Reducing food waste at source, redistribution and diverting it for animal feed all count towards meeting the target.</p>	Accommodation providers representing at least 30% of rooms are monitoring food waste.	<b>25% reduction</b> in amount of food waste generated by the accommodation sector.	<b>50% reduction</b> in amount of food waste generated by the accommodation sector.		

# Taking action

To support Saint Lucia in achieving these targets towards a more sustainable tourism sector, this action plan proposes two main programmes:

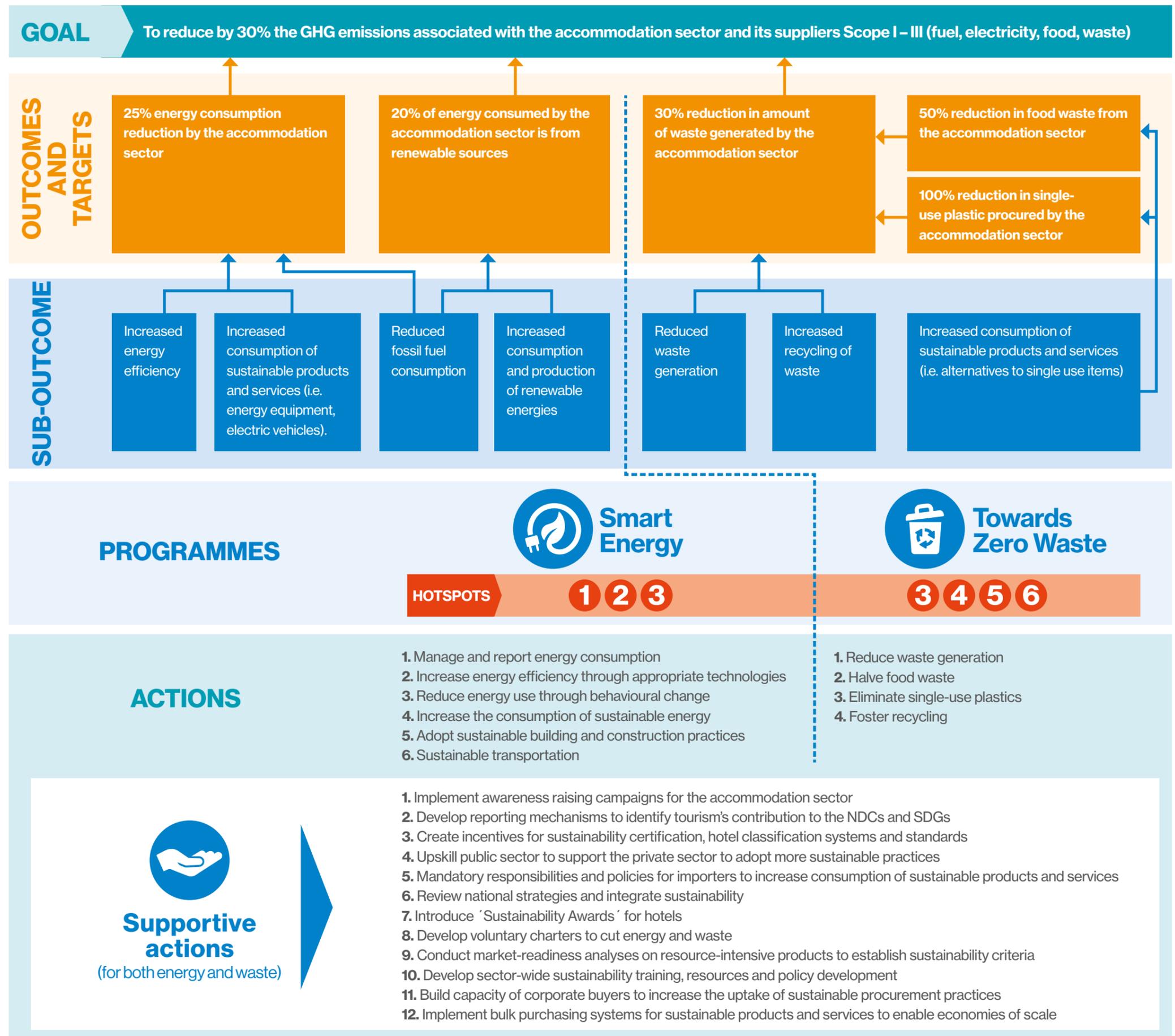
**1. Smart Energy.** This programme aims to reduce the amount of energy consumed by the accommodation sector and its value chain. Recommendations for government and agencies focus on creating an enabling environment through measures such as adequate policy formulation and enforcement. Incentives would be provided to increase energy efficiency, promote the use of electric vehicles for tourism-related transportation and improve renewable energy infrastructure. Recommendations for private sector businesses focus on reducing fossil fuel consumption through increasing energy efficiency and use of renewables and developing solutions to reduce transportation of people and products.

**2. Towards Zero Waste.** This programme aims to reduce the amount of waste generated by the accommodation sector, working towards the goal of zero waste. Recommendations for government and agencies focus on improving waste management infrastructure and fostering the recycling sector, bringing stakeholders together to develop solutions tailored to the accommodation sector and its value chain.

Recommendations for hotels focus on rethinking needs, products and services as well as operations, the use of ambitious voluntary pledges, and initiatives to encourage the uptake of sustainable procurement practices to reduce waste generation – particularly regarding plastic and food. Since the island is facing challenges posed by increasing waste generation, such as limited infrastructure and land constraints for waste management, businesses are also encouraged to collaborate with academies, research institutes and public sector partners to develop technologies and relevant circular procurement approaches.

Both programmes include actions to: increase awareness of energy and waste issues and solutions; provide training, tools and resources; support collaborative action across and between sectors; create a supportive policy environment; establish adequate monitoring and reporting systems; and share good practice and lessons learned. See section 9 for a summary of the recommendations under these headings.

It is important to note that there are already several initiatives and programmes in Saint Lucia underway in the areas of energy efficiency and waste reduction. The implementation plan that will complement this document will take these initiatives into account, building upon them and establishing relevant synergies. Finally, a framework will be provided to monitor and evaluate the progress of this action plan as well as the effectiveness of the actions set out in each programme. ■





# Smart Energy

## Manage and report energy consumption

A set of actions to enable businesses to put in systems to increase energy efficiency and reduce costs, whilst encouraging the monitoring and reporting of consumption.

### Government and agencies:

- Develop an **energy and GHG emissions reporting framework** for the accommodation sector to encourage consumption monitoring and reduction.
- Introduce **mandatory energy audits** for large hotel groups, resorts and hotel chains including their suppliers, encouraging reporting from all consumers (emphasising cost saving incentives).
- **Incentivise uptake of energy certification** by providing training on energy management and energy auditing for hotels and by facilitating partnerships with energy auditing specialists.
- Influence **the creation of Energy Services Companies (ESCOs)** for energy auditing and the implementation of recommendations and promote their benefits within the accommodation sector. These can be financed by cost savings related to energy reductions.
- Increase the number of **certified energy auditors** by providing incentives and support to obtain certification.

### Accommodation sector:

- Implement an **energy management system to increase efficiency and reduce consumption (i.e. ISO 50001)**.
- **Provide training, tools and resources** to staff relating to energy efficiency and monitoring and reporting of energy consumption and associated GHG emissions. Equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity should be provided.
- **Set targets** to reduce energy consumption, and operating costs, reviewing progress periodically.
- **Report** and publicise energy consumption and GHG emissions through corporate sustainability reports and proposed national reporting framework.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- National Utilities Regulatory Commission
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External

- Affairs and the Public Service
- Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Department of Sustainable Development
- St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC)
- Hotel and business associations
- Universities and training institutions
- Accommodation providers

## Increase energy efficiency through appropriate technologies

These actions aim to increase access to highly energy-efficient devices and appliances to enable the private sector to retrofit their energy technologies and systems.

### Government and agencies:

- Finalise and enact the **Energy Efficiency Bill** to ensure minimum energy performance standards are established.
- **Encourage the accommodation sector to procure energy efficient products and services by:**
  - developing a list of relevant **sustainable procurement** criteria
  - supporting and incentivising the **implementation of labels and certification systems** that incorporate sustainability in their criteria
  - providing **information** on product availability, finance mechanisms, and consumer advice
  - enhancing **incentives** to buy energy efficient equipment (i.e. air conditioning and lighting) or tax credits to green energy certified accommodation providers
- Incentivise the uptake of **cooling as a service**, and retrofitting old and inefficient cooling and refrigeration systems.

### Accommodation sector:

- **Review existing equipment** such as air conditioning, kitchen equipment, laundry, lighting, etc. and assess opportunities to replace them with more efficient alternatives.
- Collaborate with the public sector to establish minimum performance for air conditioning equipment in hotels and the feasibility of banning the procurement of non-efficient equipment by commissioning a **market readiness analysis**, looking at both demand and supply in the local market.
- Incorporate energy efficiency criteria, such as climate friendly refrigerants or minimum energy efficiency ratio (EER), and other sustainability criteria, such as locally availability, take-back systems or reduced packaging, into **procurement specifications for equipment**.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- National Utilities Regulatory Commission
- Department of Sustainable Development
- Saint Lucia National Trust
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- LUCELEC
- Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Hotels and business associations
- Accommodation providers

## Reduce energy use through behavioural change

Engaging staff and guests to promote behaviours that improve energy performance.

### Government and agencies:

- Provide businesses with feedback on their energy use, including how their energy consumption compares with similar **accommodation**. This can strongly influence behaviour change (i.e. commented energy bills).

### Accommodation sector:

- Promote **positive behaviour** change in staff and guests, building on awareness-raising campaigns.
- Real-time **displays** should be installed in staff areas, feeding online reports of energy use.
- Improving staff and tourists' energy behaviours by testing different campaigns, training, and approaches.
- **Train** accommodation providers' staff (as per Energy Management System section, above). Equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity should be provided.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Saint Lucia Tourism Authority
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- National Utilities Regulatory Commission
- Saint Lucia National Trust
- Hotels and business associations
- Accommodation providers

## Increase the consumption of sustainable energy

Encouraging the private sector to invest in renewable energy reduces fossil fuel consumption and increases the share of renewable energy available on the national grid.

### Government and agencies:

- Enhance **incentives** for the accommodation sector to install renewable energy technologies such as solar heaters and photovoltaic solar panels through tax credits or other fiscal instruments.
- Finalise and enact the **Service Bill**, including the introduction of a Feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme and increasing the current limit of 25 kilowatts that can be exported to the grid by producers to make investment viable.
- Improve and increase **solar energy infrastructure**.
- Develop a **pilot project for biogas production** using food waste, green waste and sewage in partnership with accommodation providers and other value chain businesses (i.e. farmers, food suppliers).

### Accommodation sector:

- Assess the potential for **introducing renewable energy systems** such as solar heaters and photovoltaic solar panels and then integrate renewable energy systems where feasible.
- Assess the potential of using food waste, green waste and sewage to **produce biogas for cooking** and other activities and implement biogas systems where feasible.
- **Train staff in the maintenance of renewable energy systems** to maximise efficiency. Equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity should be provided.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- National Utilities Regulatory Commission
- Renewable Energy Division, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
- Renewable Energy Association of Saint Lucia
- Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority
- Water and Sewerage Company Inc.
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- LUCELEC
- Hotels and business associations
- Accommodation providers
- Universities and training institutions

## Adopt sustainable building and construction practices

Sustainable construction practices lower operating and maintenance costs whilst optimising resource efficiency and respecting the natural environment. They also provide innovative design ideas.

### Government and agencies:

- Facilitate **dialogue between hotel owners, developers and designers** and encourage them to work together to provide creative solutions to embrace green building.
- Provide **training for builders, planners and architects on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), sustainable building practices** applied to design and renovation of hotels. Equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity should be provided.
- Ensure relevant **legislation and standards** such as the Building Code include minimum energy efficiency measures with mandatory implementation.

### Accommodation sector:

- Provide **training** to maintenance and other relevant staff on green building practices. This should include ensuring equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity.
- Promote the application of **green building criteria** for hotel design and/or refurbishing, such as eco-friendly building materials and systems including: alternatives made of recycled content or that use less energy to manufacture than conventional ones; natural lighting; rainwater harvesting systems; and living barriers and roofs.

### Stakeholders:

- Saint Lucia Standards Bureau
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Saint Lucia Tourism Authority
- Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Hotels and business associations
- Accommodation providers

<sup>1</sup> Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Programme (CHENACT), (2012), Energy Efficiency and Micro-Generation in Caribbean Hotels Consultancy Final Report <http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/downloads/CHENACT-Final-Report.pdf>

## Sustainable tourism-related transportation

Optimising tourism-related transportation, of goods, services and tourists, will benefit the environment, the local economy and improve quality of life for residents.

### Government and agencies:

- Facilitate discussions between relevant stakeholders to establish viable **strategies to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and to increase the use of electric vehicles**. This could include establishing partnerships between hotels and tour operators to improve transportation efficiency.
- Promote existing incentives for the purchasing of **electric vehicles** within the accommodation sector and its suppliers.
- Ensure **adequate infrastructure** to charge plug-in electric vehicles.
- Promote local products to reduce transportation of goods supplied to hotels.

### Accommodation sector:

- Collaborate with tour operators, transport companies and other stakeholders to **increase efficiency of vehicle use by pooling equipment**
- Assess the viability of **investing in electric vehicles**.
- **Reduce miles travelled by procured goods**, particularly food, and support the local economy **by introducing sustainable procurement criteria** to ensure products are procured locally where possible.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Saint Lucia Tourism Authority
- Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Hotels and business associations
- Accommodation providers
- Tour operators and transportation companies

According to the CHENACT report, investment in energy conservation measures such as energy efficiency and renewable energies technologies by hotels in Saint Lucia can provide benefits with internal rate returns in one or two years up to 140%<sup>1</sup>.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER WILLAN





# Towards Zero Waste

## Reduce waste generation

Promoting segregation, monitoring and reduction of waste, as well as providing adequate recycling services, will support the accommodation sector to substantially reduce the amount of waste it sends to landfill.

### Government and agencies:

→ Create a system for **monitoring waste reduction** across the accommodation sector by:

- Conducting a **baseline/audit** of the weight and types of waste generated
- Implementing a pilot project on the **feasibility of a mandatory reporting scheme** (for instance, as a requirement for renewing hotel licences)
- Creating and promoting a **mandatory waste reporting scheme**

- Support reduction in the amount of waste landfilled by creating **incentives and penalties** (i.e. landfill tax) and improved waste management infrastructure.
- Develop **partnerships** between public, private and third sectors to facilitate recycling initiatives.
- Review the **national waste management strategy** to improve regulation, infrastructure and services.
- **Collaborate with the OECS region** to find common solutions and to strengthen regional linkages for the management of waste.
- Engage hotels in the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management (SLSWMA) **pilot project for segregated waste collection**.
- Facilitate the introduction of a **segregated waste management service** for the tourism sector through consultation, training and improved infrastructure to support the uptake of recycling.

### Accommodation sector:

- **Train staff on waste management** procedures including segregation, disposal, monitoring and reporting and estimation of GHG emissions from waste. This should include ensuring equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity.
- Introduce **procedures to reduce the amount of waste** generated across the different waste streams through elimination and substitution. This should be aligned to the

capacity of infrastructure to process segregated waste.

- Promote staff/guest use of waste separation and monitoring procedures through appropriate **signposting and communications**. Identify priorities and needs of minorities groups dealing in waste separation and segregation to address and prevent risks of waste exposure.
- **Report and publicise waste generation** through corporate sustainability reports and the proposed national reporting framework.

### Stakeholders:

- Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority
- Department of Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
- Hotel and business associations
- Universities and training institutions
- Accommodation providers

## Halve food waste

Introducing and promoting soft measures for food waste reduction significantly reduces costs and GHG emissions.

### Government and agencies:

- Support the development of **partnerships between accommodation providers, farmers and NGOs** to reduce the amount of food waste generated and going to landfill.
- **Promote the benefits and economic opportunities of agricultural composting**, using food and garden waste from hotels within farms for own use and/or to sell, thus decreasing the use of imported inorganic fertilizers.

### Accommodation sector:

- Segregate and **monitor food waste** and establish targets for reduction and continual improvement.
- **Train staff on food waste reduction** including measures such as minimising food waste while cooking, monitoring and reviewing plate portions, tracking the popularity of dishes, and encouraging staff to take unused food home. This should include ensuring equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity.
- Establish **local partnerships** to support alternatives to sending food waste to landfill i.e. with farmers for anaerobic digestion, or local NGOs for food donations.
- Train staff in **food safety and hygiene principles for donation** of food to local communities and people in need and for food waste storage.
- **Increase agritourism linkages** to optimise local purchasing

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER WILLAN



of fresh food from local farmers, buying more often and less each time, to reduce spoilage associated with transport and storage, increasing benefits for local farmers.

- Introduce a **composting system** using hotel food and garden waste and produce fresh food on site, where feasible.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority
- Universities and training institutions
- Hotels and business associations
- Other accommodation providers
- Cooperatives, recyclers and NGOs

## Eliminate single use plastics

Introducing measures to eliminate the consumption of single use plastics will help to protect land and marine ecosystems.

### Government and agencies:

- **Incentivise** the accommodation sector to **eliminate procurement of single use plastics** (i.e. by removing tax imports on alternative, eco-friendly products).
- Enact and enforce the **Management of Beverage Container Bill**<sup>1</sup>.
- Conduct a feasibility study to introduce a national **ban on all single use plastics**.
- Incentivise **research and entrepreneurship to create alternatives to single use plastics** such as using sargassum (seaweed), combating two major polluting issues in the Caribbean region.
- **Collaborate with the OECS region** to improve the management and recycling of plastic waste in the Caribbean. This could include improving linkages with the recycling plant in Martinique through the RePlast OECS project.

### Accommodation sector

- **Collaborate with the public sector** on the feasibility of banning single use plastics.
- Assess the procurement practices and consumption of single use plastics items and establish purchasing **criteria for alternative products and targets for their elimination** or replacement with more environmentally friendly alternatives where elimination is not possible.

- **Train staff and communicate policy to staff and guests** on the urgency of phasing out from single use plastics, inspiring action beyond the hotels activities in their houses and communities. This should include ensuring equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity.
- **Engage suppliers to find solutions to eliminate single use plastics** (i.e. eliminate/reduce packaging of products) and agree supply of environment-friendly alternatives.
- **Promote and/or support activities within the communities** such as beach or green areas clean-up.

### Stakeholders:

- Department of Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service
- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority
- Saint Lucia National Trust
- Hotel and business associations
- Accommodation providers
- Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Cooperatives, recyclers, NGOs

## Foster recycling

The amount of waste going to landfill can be reduced by increasing recycling, and circular economy approaches; fostering the longer and better use of products by extracting the maximum value from them including through encouraging their reparability and remanufacturing at the end of their life of service.

### Government and agencies:

- **Support investment and entrepreneurship** across the waste collection and recycling sector through incentives (such as existing incentives on PET bottles or PET flakes exported or tax credits for investments in anaerobic composting plants for organic waste recycling).
- Assess the **business needs of waste collectors and recyclers** and put in place mechanisms to support sustainable growth and coordinated work (i.e. by encouraging the creation of an association for the recycling sector, providing training on sustainable business development, facilitating partnerships with the accommodation sector).
- Develop and enforce **recycling regulations**.
- **Facilitate dialogue between the recycling and the**

**accommodation sector** to develop tailored solutions and encourage partnerships that involve the coordination and cooperation between all key stakeholders within the value chain.

- Assess the viability of using **economies of scale to improve recycling** at the national and OECS level.
- Set targets to ensure women and entrepreneurs from minority backgrounds are included in research and waste processing initiatives.

### Accommodation sector

- Assess waste streams and identify opportunities for re-using and recycling to establish corresponding **waste management procedures**.
- Develop **sector-wide partnerships with waste collection and recycling businesses** to ensure adequate disposal of waste
- Drive sustainability through **procurement practices and upstream collaboration with suppliers** such as through purchase-buy back models where the supplier buys back the product (i.e. air conditioning unit) after its use, thereby encouraging refurbishment and remanufacturing.

### Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries
- Department of Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives
- Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority
- Cooperatives, recyclers, NGOs
- Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Hotel and business associations
- Accommodation providers

A review of 42 hotels across 15 countries found that nearly every site evaluated achieved a positive return, with the average hotel saving \$7 for every \$1 invested in reducing kitchen food waste. The report also found:

- On average hotels achieved a 21 percent reduction of kitchen food waste in just one year by weight. Within that first year, over 70 percent had also recouped their investment. Within two years, 95 percent had recouped their investment.
- Nearly 90 percent of sites were able to keep their total investment below \$20,000, which was less than 1 percent of sales on average<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> This bill seeks to incentivize the return of plastic and other recyclable containers in exchange for the payment of a cash refund.  
<sup>2</sup> Clowes et al, 2017, The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Hotels, Champions 12.3. <https://champions123.org/the-business-case-for-reducing-food-loss-and-waste-hotels/>





## Supportive actions (for energy and waste programmes)

The following set of actions are necessary to support the implementation of both programmes.

### Government and agencies:

→ Implement **awareness-raising campaigns** targeted at the accommodation sector to:

- promote the uptake of energy efficient products
- encourage staff and guests change their behaviour to reduce energy consumption
- highlight the need to improve the sustainability of transportation services
- eliminate and reduce waste, following the 'refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle' model and with a particular focus on eliminating single use items and promoting more environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic where elimination is not possible.

→ Develop a **reporting mechanism** to disaggregate the contribution of the tourism sector to the achievement of the NDCs and SDGs.

→ Create **incentives and support the adoption of Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) accredited certification**, hotel classification systems and standards for the accommodation sector (i.e. through training, support in certification, financing, etc).

→ Provide **training to public sector officials on policy formulation** to support the private sector to adopt more sustainable practices (i.e. creation of incentives for renewable energy system, tax credits, etc). This should include ensuring equitable opportunities and access to training and resources for all relevant staff, irrespective of gender or ethnicity.

→ Influence the development of **mandatory responsibilities and policies for importers** to increase the consumption of sustainable products and services (i.e. mandatory obligation for importers of electrical equipment to ensure only certified products are imported and that end of life responsibility is assumed through initiatives such as take-back systems, reduction of packaging and elimination of single use plastics).

→ **Review the national tourism strategy** to identify opportunities to integrate sustainability such as enabling tourism businesses to become more sustainable and raising awareness to support sustainable consumption and production.

→ Introduce annual **'Sustainable Awards' for hotels** leading the way in sustainable hospitality practices (i.e. most energy efficient, low waste generation and high recycling rate).



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER WILLAN

### Accommodation sector

→ Develop a voluntary charter or agreement for the accommodation sector with **pledges to reduce energy consumption and waste generation and to adopt sustainable procurement policies** to be eligible for incentives and/or support (i.e. support and advice to buy energy efficient equipment, renewable energy systems, training, etc.)

→ Undertake **market readiness analyses** (MRA) of resource-intensive products (i.e. air conditioning, fresh produce and alternatives to single use plastics) looking at both demand and supply in the local market, so as to establish relevant sustainable procurement criteria.

→ Deliver **sector-wide training, resources and policy** development on:

- **sustainable procurement** to encourage businesses to include sustainability criteria in their purchasing policies to reduce energy consumption, waste generation and GHG emissions, with an emphasis on buying locally to reduce

environmental impacts and support local economies.

- **low carbon menus** for chefs to reduce GHG emissions (i.e. procure food locally, serve less meat, minimize food waste, be energy efficient in the kitchen, etc.)

- Develop **case studies on sustainable practices and resource efficiency** with hotels and disseminate them across the sector to inspire action.

→ **Build the capacity of corporate buyers** to increase the uptake of sustainable procurement practices and develop a business-driven extended producer responsibilities mechanism to promote circular economies and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

→ Conduct a sector-level **feasibility study on implementing a collective purchasing system** for accommodation providers (particularly SMEs) to implement bulk purchasing systems for sustainable products and services, increase their purchasing power and enable economies of scale.

### Stakeholders:

→ Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service

→ Public Procurement Office

→ Department of Sustainable Development

→ Ministry of Tourism Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Creative Industries

→ Saint Lucia Tourism Authority

→ Universities and training institutions

→ Saint Lucia Standards Bureau

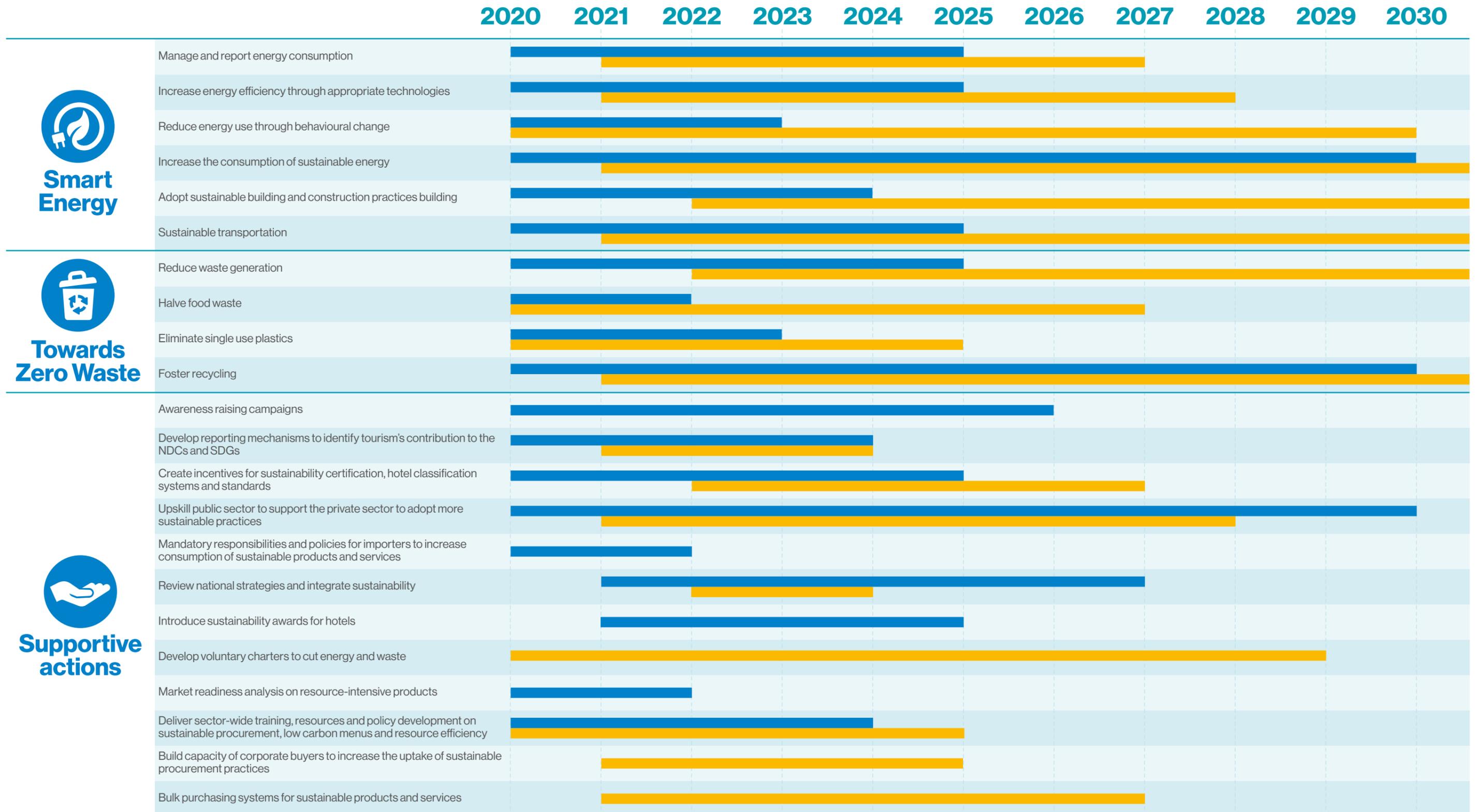
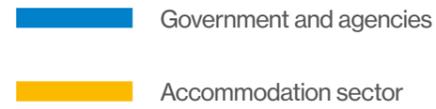
→ Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce

→ Universities and training institutions

→ Hotel and business associations

# Timeline

Timeline for the implementation of the action plan and its programmes and activities



# Monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan

Effective monitoring and evaluation is essential to verify that these actions are being implemented correctly and to assess whether they are leading towards the desired outcomes. Providing stakeholders with key information enables them to make timely modifications to ensure targets are achieved.

This data will also be essential for Saint Lucia to report on its global commitments. The implementation plan will provide a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework and an outline of roles and responsibilities for monitoring and reporting. ■

## How can we measure the effectiveness of the action plan?



	2030 Main target (against 2020 baseline <sup>1</sup> )	Indicator (Units)	Who reports? Data source	Data collection standard	Validation data source	SDGs
<b>Greenhouse Gases</b>	<b>30% reduction</b> in Scope <sup>2</sup> I – III (fuel, electricity, food, waste) GHG emissions from the accommodation sector	GHG emissions (tonnes CO2e)	Accommodation providers using data records and bills	IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories <sup>3</sup>	→ National GHG emission inventory	
<b>Energy</b>	<b>25% reduction</b> in energy consumed by the accommodation sector	Total energy consumption (kWh)	Accommodation providers using data records and bills	Energy standards	→ National database → LUCELEC <sup>4</sup>	
	<b>20% of energy</b> consumed by the accommodation sector is from renewable sources	Total energy consumption (kWh)	Accommodation providers using data records and bills	Energy standards	→ National database → LUCELEC	
<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>30% reduction</b> in amount of waste generated by the accommodation sector	Tonnes of solid waste (tonnes)	Accommodation providers using own measurement systems	Waste standards	→ SLSWMA <sup>5</sup> database	
<b>Plastic Waste</b>	<b>100% reduction</b> in single-use plastic procured by the accommodation sector	Number of single-use plastic items procured	Accommodation providers using own measurement systems	Waste standards	→ SLSWMA database	
<b>Food Waste</b>	<b>50% reduction</b> in food waste generated by the accommodation sector	Tonnes of edible food waste (tonnes)	Accommodation providers using own measurement systems	Food loss and Waste standards	→ SLSWMA database	

<sup>1</sup> The reduction targets for GHG emissions, energy consumption and waste generation will be set relative to a Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario. This is in line with the Nationally Determined Contribution of Saint Lucia.  
<sup>2</sup> This target focuses on the elements within scope 3 that are associated with the largest amounts of GHG emissions, which according to the Eora global supply chain database are waste and purchased food. These are also the parts of the value chain that accommodation providers can easily influence within their own activities such as through implementing

sustainable procurement and reducing the generation of waste.  
<sup>3</sup> See latest IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories at the following website: <https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2019rf/index.html>.  
<sup>4</sup> St Lucia Electricity Services Ltd (LUCELEC). The Hotel sector is not segregated in current energy databases. An establishment of mandatory and/or voluntary reporting for GHG, waste and energy for hotels and value chain business is crucial to develop a specific database for the hotel sector. Reporting mechanisms should be established by 2020 for early adopters.  
<sup>5</sup> Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA)

# The Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals



This graphic shows the direct and indirect contribution of each programme and the whole action plan detailed in section 9 to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) highlighting the main focus of each one, as well as indirect and direct contributions. It aligns with the goals established in Saint Lucia Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat. ■

# Summary of recommendations

Achieving the goals of this action plan will require cross-sector action. The public sector will provide the enabling environment for change, and businesses will need to commit to changing their practices. ■

## 1. Increasing awareness of energy and waste issues and solutions

### Government and agencies

→ Develop awareness raising campaigns targeting accommodation providers and guests on: sustainable procurement; energy management; renewable energy; and waste reduction/elimination.

### Accommodation sector

→ Communicate to staff and guests about reducing waste, saving water and reducing energy consumption.

## 2. Providing training, tools and resources

### Government and agencies

→ Train public sector officials on policy formulation to support the private sector to adopt more sustainable practices.

→ Train accommodation sector on energy and waste management, auditing and reporting.

### Accommodation sector

→ Sector-wide training for staff on sustainable procurement and energy and waste management and monitoring.

## 3. Supporting collaborative action across and between sectors

### Government and agencies

→ Assess the business needs of waste collectors and recyclers and support sustainable growth and collaboration.

→ Facilitate dialogue between the accommodation sector and its suppliers to establish circular economy solutions such as supplier take-back systems

### Accommodation sector

→ Develop sector-wide initiatives to increase the procurement and use of energy efficient products and services.

→ Develop a voluntary agreement for the accommodation sector with pledges to reduce energy consumption and waste generation.

→ Develop sector-wide partnership between accommodation, suppliers, tour operators and transport services to reduce transportation related to tourism.

→ Develop sector-wide partnerships with waste collection and recycling businesses to reduce the amount of waste landfilled and ensure adequate disposal of waste.

→ Increase agritourism linkages that optimise purchasing of fresh food from local farmers to reduce spoilage and increase benefits for local farmers.

## 4. Creating supportive policies and infrastructure

### Government and agencies

→ Provide incentives to the accommodation sector through tax credits, investment or other fiscal instruments.

→ Review the national tourism, waste and energy strategies to identify new opportunities to enable tourism businesses to become more sustainable.

### Accommodation sector

→ Implement an energy management system.

→ Introduce renewable energy systems.

→ Acquire electric vehicles.

→ Reduce the amount of waste landfilled, through elimination, and substitution policies.

→ Introduce waste separation and monitoring systems, composting systems and fresh food production.

## 5. Establishing adequate monitoring and reporting systems

### Government and agencies

→ Develop a reporting mechanism to segregate the contribution of the tourism sector to the achievement of the NDC and SDGs.

→ Conduct a pilot project on the feasibility of a mandatory reporting scheme.

### Accommodation sector

→ Report energy consumption and GHG emissions.

→ Segregate and monitor food waste, report waste generation and establish targets for reduction and continual improvement.

# Recommendations for the OECS region

The hotel industry is crucial to the Caribbean region's economy. Five other OECS member states were included in the scope of this action plan: Antigua & Barbuda; Dominica; Grenada; St. Kitts & Nevis; and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. These members, including Saint Lucia, are among the smallest of all SIDS (small island developing states) and share a vulnerability to climate events, with repeated annual flooding and droughts, sea level rise, hurricanes and windstorms. Tourism is the dominant economic sector in the islands, contributing between 20% and 60% of GDP. Most tourism activities are concentrated in island coastal zones.

Based on available the available information gathered during the development of this action plan it can be concluded that substantial consumption of energy from fossil fuel sources and a high generation of waste (with no recycling infrastructure) are common issues across these islands. Tourism growth and development contributes to enhance these impacts. Therefore, those should be considered as likely hotspots within their respective accommodation sector value chains.

Please note that further analysis of the environmental impacts of the tourism value chain on each island would need to take place to ensure an accurate identification of hotspots on each island. This would also take into account variations between members such as differences in tourism models, customer profiles and tourism products.

## 1. Recommendations to reduce energy consumption

The consumption of energy through activities such as Air Conditioning, Heating and Ventilation (ACHV) is the main source of hotel GHG emissions at regional level. Air conditioning represents 48% of electricity consumption in Caribbean hotels<sup>1</sup>. A comparison of hotel emissions and electricity consumption was carried out by the Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Programme (CHENACT)<sup>2</sup> and potential energy savings in the accommodation sector are substantial.

Recommendations at regional level to reduce energy consumption include:

→ Creating a **forum to share renewable energy and energy efficiency expertise** between the hospitality industries of the different OECS countries.

→ Developing and implementing a **regional awareness-raising campaign on energy efficiency** on the tourism industry.

→ Providing **information, tools, training and resources** with regards to energy conservation and efficiency for public and private sector stakeholders. Where possible this should be carried out at OECS level, and then (importantly) tailored to the country context and delivered at local level. This could be done through the reinstatement of the Sustainable Energy Technical Assistance (SETA) for a competitive OECS.

→ Assessing the possibility of adopting a **holistic approach to sustainable energy development at a regional level** with three pillars including: policy making, energy market involvement (particularly the tourism industry); and community involvement. This could be done through the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) to create enabling environments for sustainable energy investments and markets by mitigating existing barriers.

→ **Establishing a coordinated policy approach**, where this is feasible and appropriate, in relation to region-wide issues such as supportive policy frameworks, energy auditing and reporting, incentivising renewable energies and energy efficient products and services at regional level backed by national level penalties and incentives. For example, CHENACT calls for the development of a hotel clean energy policy that will fit within the energy policy framework of the individual country.

→ Establishing rating and **certification schemes** to recognize energy efficiency and GHG management leadership in the hotel industry in accordance with CHENACT recommendations.

## 2. Recommendations to reduce waste generation

The majority of OECS countries face similar challenges in relation to waste, and the main disposal practice is landfill. Generally, landfill technologies are inadequate: there is a lack of resources, limited availability of suitable land, and

<sup>1</sup> United4efficiency, (2018), Caribbean Cooling Initiative (C-Cool) Concept Paper. <https://united4efficiency.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/C-COOL-Concept-Paper-20180403.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Caribbean Hotel Energy Efficiency Action Programme (CHENACT), (2012), Energy Efficiency and Micro-Generation in Caribbean Hotels Consultancy Final Report . <http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/downloads/CHENACT-Final-Report.pdf>



insufficient investment for proper operation. Other common issues include the generation of high quantities of waste due to population and tourism growth, no widespread waste segregation, a lack of waste management infrastructure and recycling, and an absence of waste management regulation and/or enforcement.

Additionally, plastic pollution is a common and growing concern in the region. Efforts are being made by the different countries to eliminate single-use plastic. Saint Kitts, Dominica, Grenada, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Saint Lucia have all recently passed legislation to phase out problematic single-use plastic items.

Recommendations at regional level to reduce the generation of waste include:

- Creating a **regional forum to share experiences and initiatives** by hoteliers on waste management.
- Developing and implementing **regional communication programmes** to increase awareness and sensitise the tourism industry **to the need for reducing waste**.
- Providing **information, tools, training and resources on waste management**, with emphasis on reduction and monitoring, for public and private sector stakeholders. Where possible this should be carried out at OECS level, and then (importantly) tailored to the country context and delivered at local level.
- Developing a **regional waste characterisation from the accommodation sector** to develop common and tailored solutions.
- Developing a **regional integrated solid waste management strategy** coordinated at regional level, and led at national level by each state's corresponding waste management authority that includes strengthening policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for solid waste management at national level covering the 4Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle), collection and disposal with emphasis in reducing waste.
- Establishing a **sustainable financing mechanism for waste management and recycling** to improve technologies and capacities for solid waste management at regional level.
- Considering waste as a resource and **promoting common circular economy strategies** and business models incentivising entrepreneurship in the recycling sector and upstream solutions with suppliers such as purchase-buy back models. This can benefit from economies of scale at the OECS level.
- **Establishing regional links between islands to improve**

**waste treatment and recycling**, decreasing waste to landfill in the countries, for example by improving links between the islands and the recycling plant in Martinique for the recycling of PET materials.

- **Aligning national policies to ban the use of single-use plastic at regional level**, promoting primarily the reduction of single use items and when elimination is not possible the use of environmentally friendly products.

### 3. Supportive actions

The above recommendations for the OECS region focus on the reduction of energy consumption and waste generation by scaling up the actions recommended for Saint Lucia. The following cross-cutting actions support both of these areas of focus:

- **Reviewing and aligning tourism policies to mainstream environmental sustainability criteria** to work towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient OECS tourism industry, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **Promoting sustainable procurement policies** within the tourism industry at regional level to influence environmental sustainability within the value chain by provision of capacity building and incentives to enable the accommodation sectors to procure sustainable products and services.
- **Promoting the adoption of Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) accredited certification by providing incentives**.
- Creating **regional sustainability hospitality awards** to incentivise action and initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and improve resource efficiency and to share good practice.
- **Introduce within the Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Awards** awards to incentivise action and initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and improve resource efficiency and to share good practice.
- **Developing national and regional tourism energy, waste and GHG emissions monitoring and reporting mechanisms**.
- **Setting national and regional targets for OECS member states aligned with NDCs and the SDGs to reduce energy consumption, waste generation and GHG emissions within the OECS tourism sector**.



**“The vision of this action plan is to support Saint Lucia in becoming a sustainable, competitive and resilient destination, a model of environmental responsibility and stewardship of resources, ensuring inclusive economic benefit and quality of life for its citizens, whilst offering a distinctive and high-quality visitor experience.”**

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PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER WILLAN



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