



Center for Responsible Travel

Transforming the Way the World Travels

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Panel 3: Resource efficiency, environmental protection, and climate change

Presentation Overview - Ewald Biemans, owner, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

The video you've seen today covers a lot of what we've done, and continue to do, at [Bucuti & Tara](#), so I just wanted to add some other measures we're taking to be [efficient and eco-friendly](#). They are as follows:

- Bucuti & Tara will try to be carbon neutral by the year end 2018.
- Our newly installed solar panels produce about 25 percent of the power consumed at the resort.
- Total power consumed at present is over 50 percent derived from wind and solar.
- We are strictly serving healthy portions in our restaurants—this is a reduction of about 30 percent in portion sizes. Some years ago, we found that 20 to 30 percent of our foods served went into the garbage because of the large, American-sized portions we served. Reducing portion sizes has helped us lower our food prices by approximately 20 percent.
- A visitor's carbon footprint, while visiting our resort, is much lower than if the visitor were to stay at home and commute a few hours a day and live in a fully air-conditioned or heated home and use all the disposables, air-conditioned facilities or heated facilities. For example, the average household of two in the United States generates emissions of 136 kilograms of carbon dioxide per day. Whereas, at Bucuti, a couple generates emissions of 17.6 kilograms of carbon dioxide per day.

We are also increasing our community involvement, by:

- Working on a reef reforestation project
- Amplifying our [turtle protection program](#) by turning off all public lighting after 11 p.m., from March 1 to August 30, which is turtle nesting season, and getting neighboring resorts to do the same.
- Increasing spending on the [spay and neuter campaign](#) to achieve 5,000 spay and neuter operations.