

Sunday, August 31, 2008

Dear Management,

I am here enjoying your resort as a part of a group sponsored by the Pachamama Alliance and we have just returned from being with the indigenous people deep in the rainforest.

Your staff here has been wonderful and we are so relaxed from your warm waters and comfortable rooms.

As a certified energy auditor and an owner of a couple businesses in the USA, I would like to offer a couple suggestions that would:

1. be of financial benefit to Luna Runtun,
2. increase the pleasant experience of guests,
3. contribute to the solution of a difficult problem in Ecuador tourism, and
4. help slow the huge problem of the warming planet.

The suggestions are in the areas of lawn maintenance and lighting.

Lawn Maintenance:

Soon after our arrival we experienced a staff member using a gas weed trimmer to cut a large section of grass near our room. The down side of this experience included:

1. A violently loud sound that was painful and prevented us from experiencing the serenity of our beautiful environment.
2. The foul odor of the gas exhaust fumes as we went from one place to another.
3. Concern for the health of the staff member from the dangerous decibel level to his hearing and his proximity to the toxic fumes.
4. There is also a danger to guests and staff from flying projectiles hit by the weed cutter.
5. This method of lawn maintenance also consumes significant amounts of expensive gasoline and some oil.
6. This method is slow and is expensive in terms of staff costs.
7. The result to the grass is uneven cutting and each individual grass plant will now need to recover from being ripped up rather than a clean cut.
8. There is a significant equipment purchase and maintenance cost of the weed cutter.

A solution which I have tested for the past 5 years on similar sized lawn areas is a mechanical push mower.

1. They are very quiet.
2. Produce only the pleasant odor of freshly cut grass.
3. Are safe for the operator and guests and will not throw any projectiles.
4. Are faster and use less staff exertion.
5. Are easy and cheap to maintain.

6. Have no consumable operating costs.
7. By avoiding petroleum use they help contribute to a solution for Ecuador where pristine areas can be free of fossil fuel extraction and eco-tourism can instead be the economic solution.
8. Put Luna Runtun clearly on the side of being part of the green solution to global warming.

Lighting:

Currently you are using hundreds of incandescent bulbs. These can be replaced by energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) and in some cases the newer light emitting diode (LED) bulbs at tremendous saving. Compact fluorescents can now be purchased for just over \$1.00 each. (Not long ago their price was nearly \$15.00) In most cases they last over 10 times longer, making their purchase price actually lower than the 10-13 incandescents they replace. Plus you can add all the savings of staff time spent replacing bulbs and guest irritation at burned out bulbs. The compact fluorescents use so much less energy. You will get the same amount of light from a 13 watt CFL as you are now getting from your 60 watt bulbs. This will save you hundreds if not thousands of dollars a year! CFLs come in all colors or warmth (angstroms) and all types of sizes and designs, even frosted globe coverings that make them look like incandescents. They are now designed for indoor as well as outdoor use. There are some places where incandescents are being used for spot or directional lighting. This presents an opportunity to switch to the new LED lighting technology- Although the initial cost of the bulbs is still higher, their extremely low wattage (sometimes just 1 or 2 watts) makes them a huge money saver.

I hope you find these suggestions helpful and profitable. Thank you so much for your consideration and for providing such a wonderful facility.

Best wishes,

Luke Lundemo

597 Warrior Trail

Jackson, Mississippi 39216

USA