

SPOTLIGHT on Sustainability



Clean the World

"Recycling soap from 500,000 hotel rooms to prevent disease in 96 countries"

What is Clean the World?

Based in Orlando, Clean the World is a social enterprise that collects and recycles discarded soap and bottled amenities (shampoo, etc.) from hotel partners in North America and Asia. The recycled soap is distributed around the world in areas where there is a high risk of hygiene-related illness.

How did it all begin?

In 2009 founder Shawn Seipler was in a hotel room in Minneapolis on a business trip and wondered what happened to all those little bars of hotel soap. He found out they are simply thrown away in most cases. Then he learned about all the children dying around the world from hygiene-related illnesses. He put the two together, and Clean the World was born.

How is the soap recycled?

Clean the World developed a recycling process that is both environmentally and hygienically safe. The process ensures that all bars of recycled soap are free of any disease or pathogens. With recycling plants in Orlando, Las Vegas, and Hong Kong, Clean the World recycles soap from a half-million hotel rooms, diverting more than 5 million pounds of waste since 2009.

What happens to the recycled soap?

The recycled bars of soap are sent to homeless shelters, food pantries, and relief organizations across the U.S. and about 100 other countries. More than 22 million bars of soap and hygiene products have been distributed to impoverished families around the world.

Why is this so important?

More than 5,000 children under the age of 5 perish each day due to hygiene-related diseases. With access to soap and education on proper hand washing techniques, about half those deaths can be prevented. By turning the hospitality industry's trash into treasure, Clean the World saves lives and the planet at the same time.

Get Involved!

Companies, churches, schools, clubs, and fraternal organizations can host hygiene kit building events as a way to improve teamwork and create a renewed focus on community. By distributing the kits locally, participants see how something so simple can have a profound impact on others.

