Sustainable Hospitality: Key Indicators and Challenges in the Greek Hotel Sector

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# **Survey Identity**

SURVEY TITLE	ESG SUSTAINABILITY IN THE GREEK HOTEL SECTOR
ASSIGNING AUTHORITY	Hellenic Chamber of Hotels (HCH)
CONDUCTING BODY	Research Institute for Tourism (RIT)
REFERENCE PERIOD	2024
SURVEY TIME PERIOD	7 – 31 August 2024
DELIVERABLE DATE	September 2024
POPULATION	Greek Hotels
STATISTICAL UNIT	Hotel Unit
REGISTRY	HCH Registry
CLASSIFICATIONS	NUTS II (Regions), Category, Size of Hotels
SAMPLING METHOD	Stratified proportional sampling
WEIGHTING	Triple (Region, Class, Size (Rooms))
SAMPLE/POPULATION SIZE	n=896 / N=10.000
COLLECTION METHOD	CAWI



# ESG Sustainability Survey 2024: Integrated Data Utilization

RIT
Official Annual Hotel
Structure Survey



RIT
Official Annual Hotel
Performance Survey

GOOGLE- RIT 2020

GOOGLE- RIT 2023





# Distribution of Hotel Units & Rooms by Category

Category	% of Hotel Units	% of Rooms	
5*	8,3	24,5	
4*	18,8	29,2	
3*	29,4	22,6	
2*	32,2	18,8	
1*	11,4	4,9	

Hotels rated 4\* and 5\* represent 27% of the total hotel establishments, accounting accounting for **54%** of all available rooms.





# **Contents – ESG Sections**



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ENERGY



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WASTE

**MANAGEMENT** 



ESG.4
SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABILITY



ESG.5
CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE &
MANAGEMENT



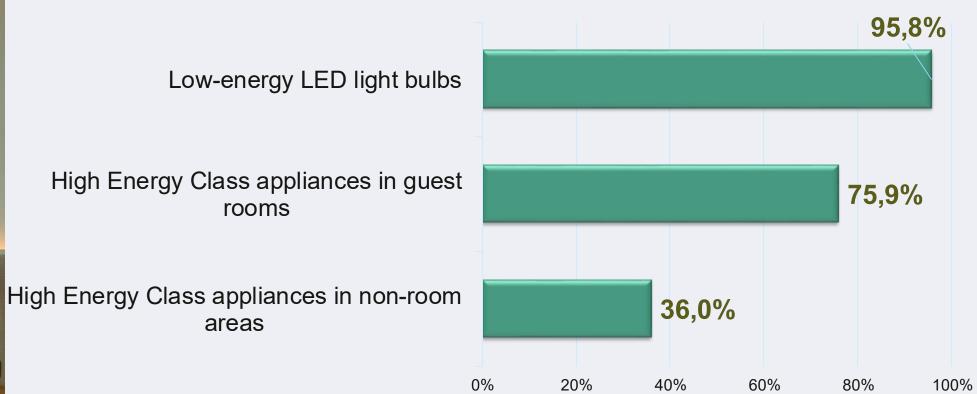
# ESG.1 ENERGY





# Energy-Saving Devices in Greek Hotels

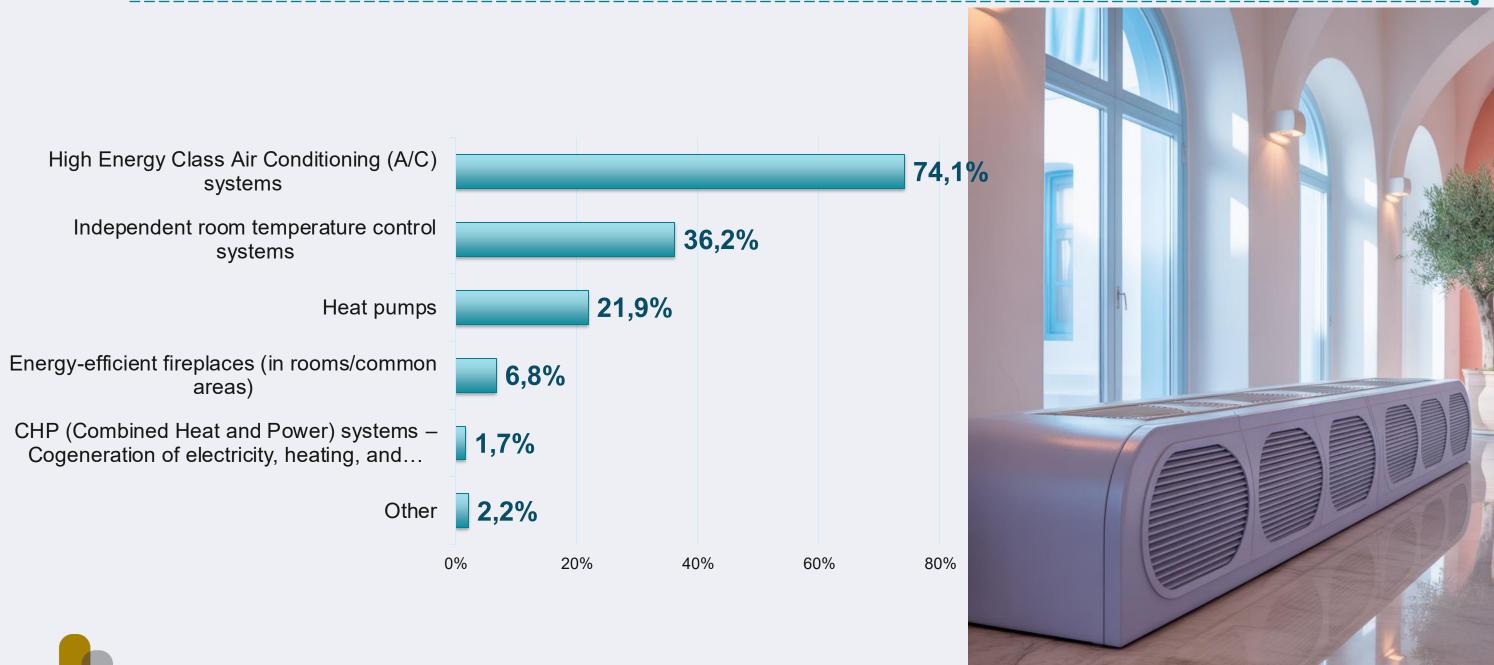




<sup>\*</sup> Multiple Answers.



# Heating & Cooling Methods in Greek Hotels

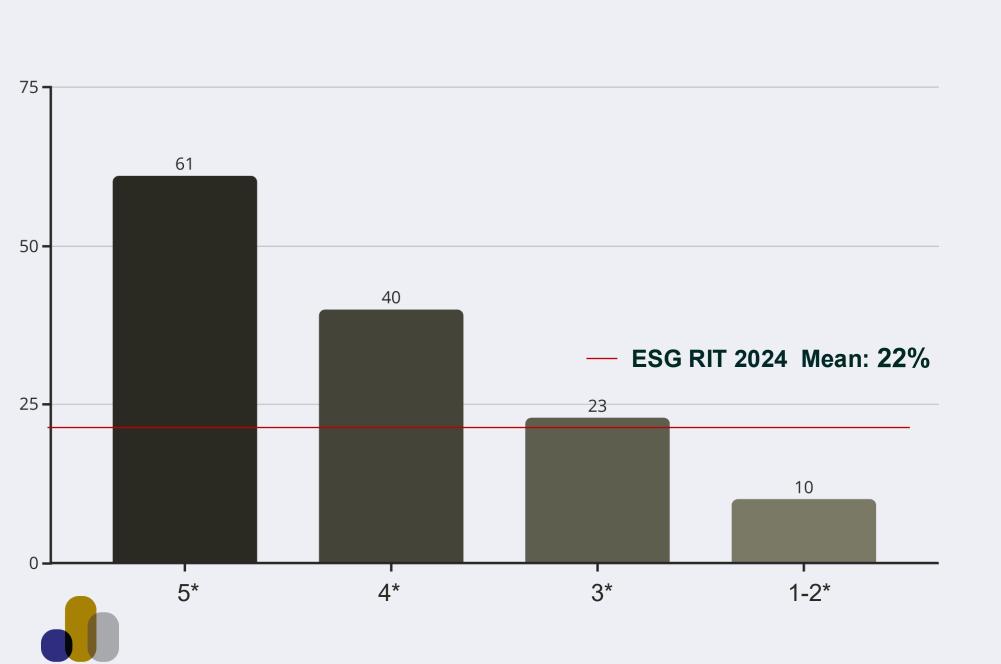




\* Multiple Answers.



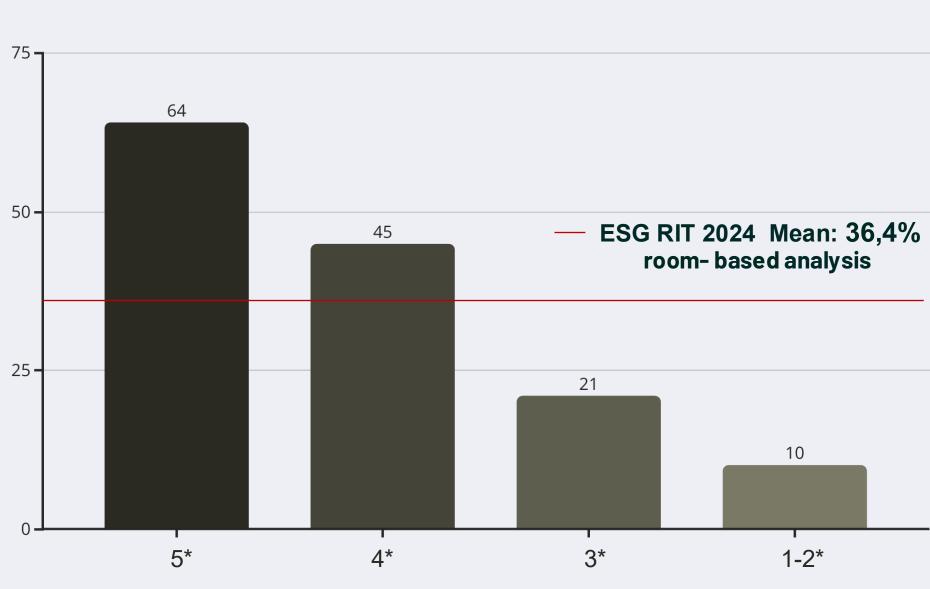
# Heat Pumps: A Popular Solution for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability





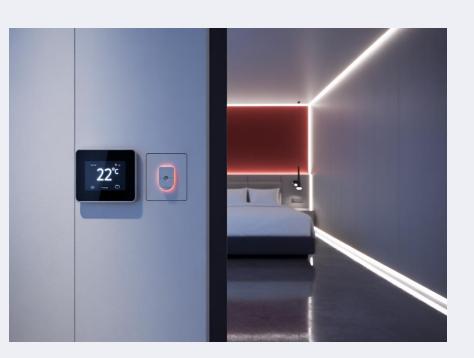
# Heat Pumps: Room-Based Analysis

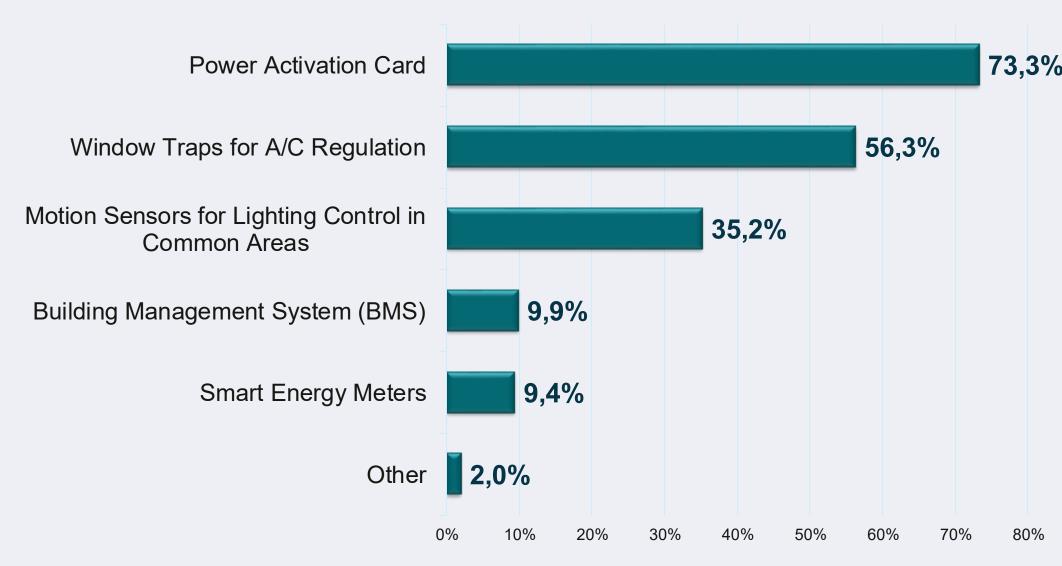






# Control Systems in Greek Hotels





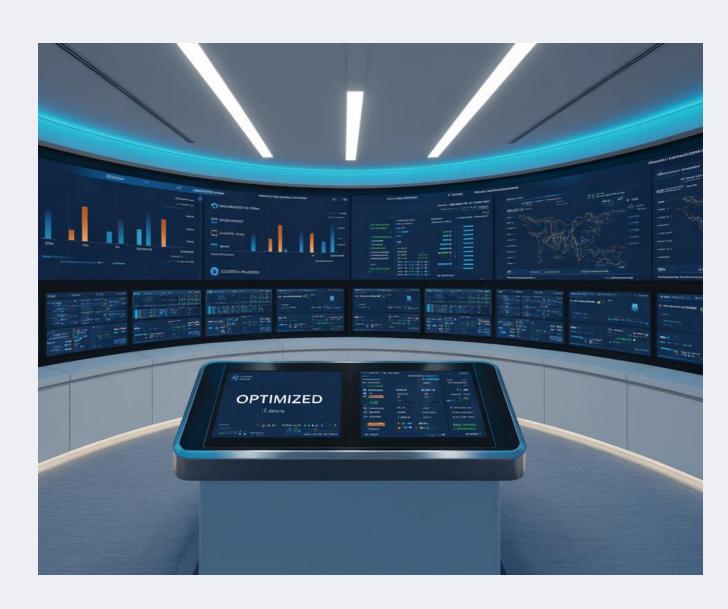




# BMS – A Strategic Investment in Greek Hotels

Increase in the share of hotels using a Building Management System (BMS):









# Energy Infrastructure in Greek Hotels

50,2% **Energy-Efficient** Windows



54,4% **Energy-Efficient Frames** 



42,7% Wall and Roof Insulation



48,7% Awnings / Shading **Systems** 



15,7% EV Charging Stations



13,6% Use of Electric Vehicles







# Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Greek Hotels



Increase in the percentage of hotels offering electric vehicle charging stations:

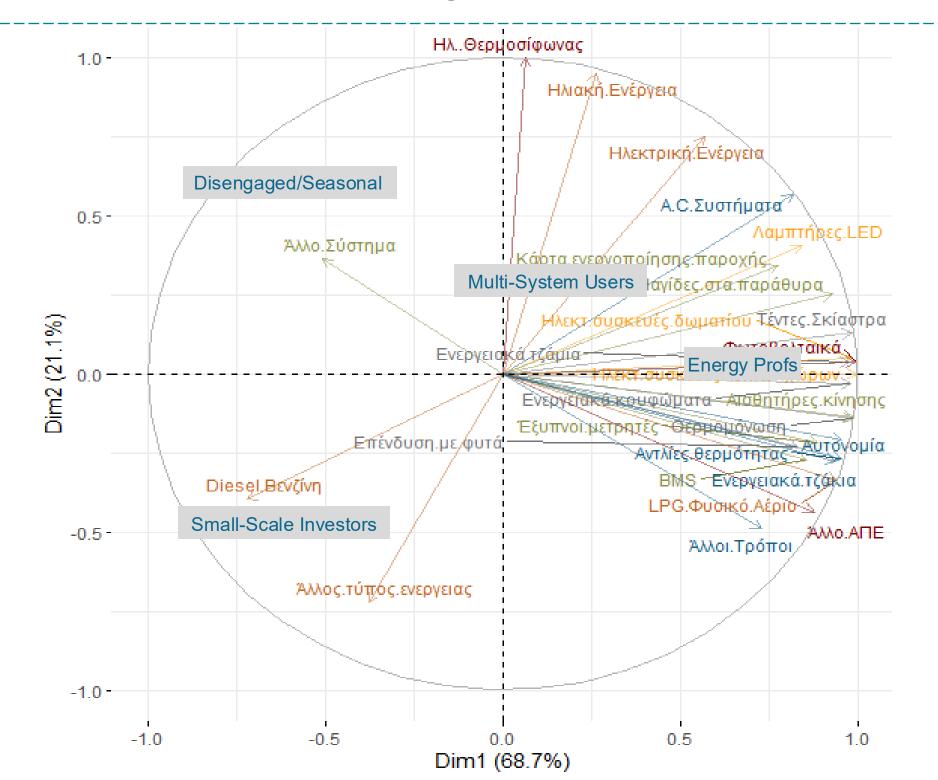


Category	RIT- HCH 2020	RIT- HCH 2024	
5*	21,3%	65,3%	
4*	11,5%	28,5%	
3*	2,8%	13,2%	
2*	1,7%	5,1%	
1*	n/a	n/a	



The installation of electric vehicle charging stations, beyond being a sustainable practice, offers a competitive advantage for hotels by attracting environmentally conscious guests.

# Multifactor Analysis of the Energy Profiles of Greek Hotels



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# The Four Hotel Energy Management Profiles

### **Energy Profs (8%)**

They use specialized energy management tools and practices.

Mostly 4\* and 5\* hotels.





### Multi-System Users (32%)

Focus on solar energy and control systems (e.g., key card activation, window sensors for A/C). Primarily 3\* and 4\* hotels.

### Disengaged/Seasonal (37%)

The majority of hotels, with 90% being small or family-run 1\* and 2\* properties.

Only solar water heaters are typically used.





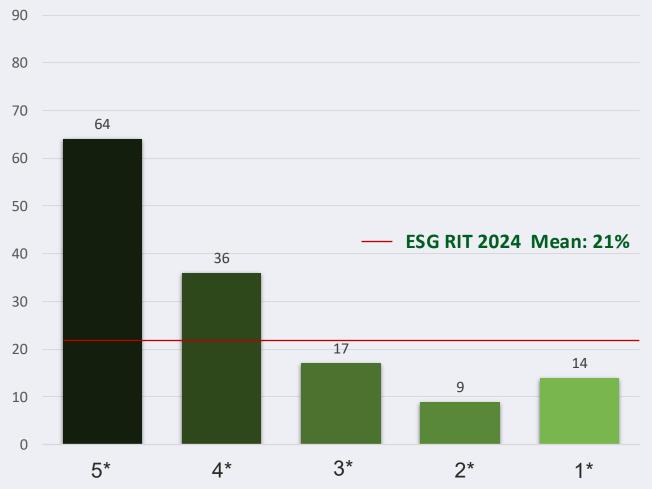
### **Small-Scale Investors (23%)**

Rely on conventional fuels (diesel, petrol, wood stoves) with minor upgrades. More commonly found at higher altitudes.

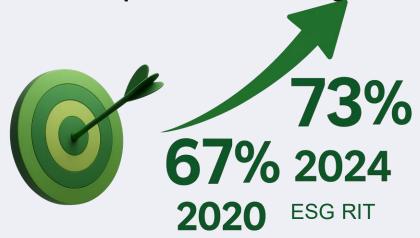


### Energy Monitoring & Reporting Systems and Consumption Reduction Targets

21% of hotels have a system for recording and monitoring their energy consumption



Increase in the percentage of hotels that have set energy consumption reduction targets:



**GOOGLE-RIT** 

Category	GOOGLE-RIT 2020	RIT- HCH 2024
5*	89%	87%
4*	68%	77%
3*	66%	69%
2*	65%	71%
1*	60%	68%

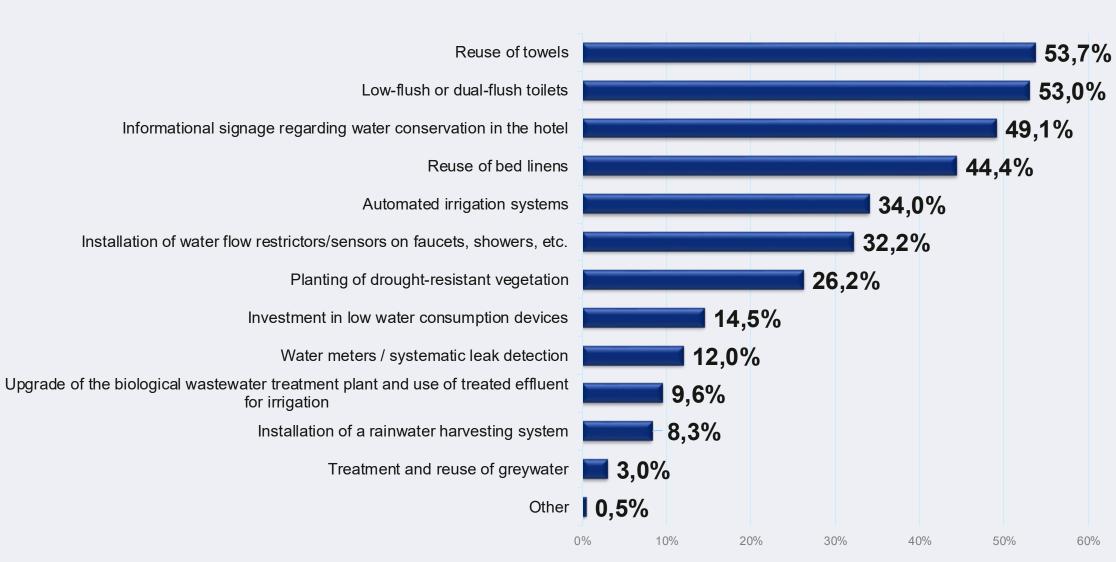


# O ESG.2 O WATER









<sup>\*</sup> Multiple Answers.





# Among those with a pool:



60,8%

Focus on Leak Reduction



5,9%

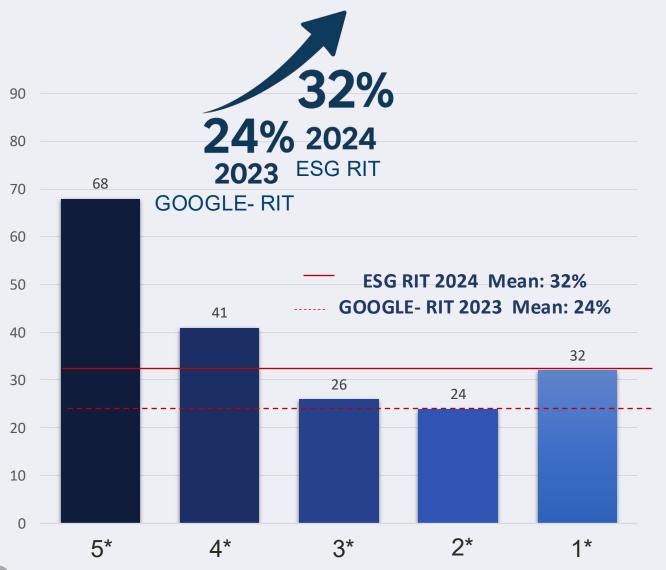
Use Seawater in their pools

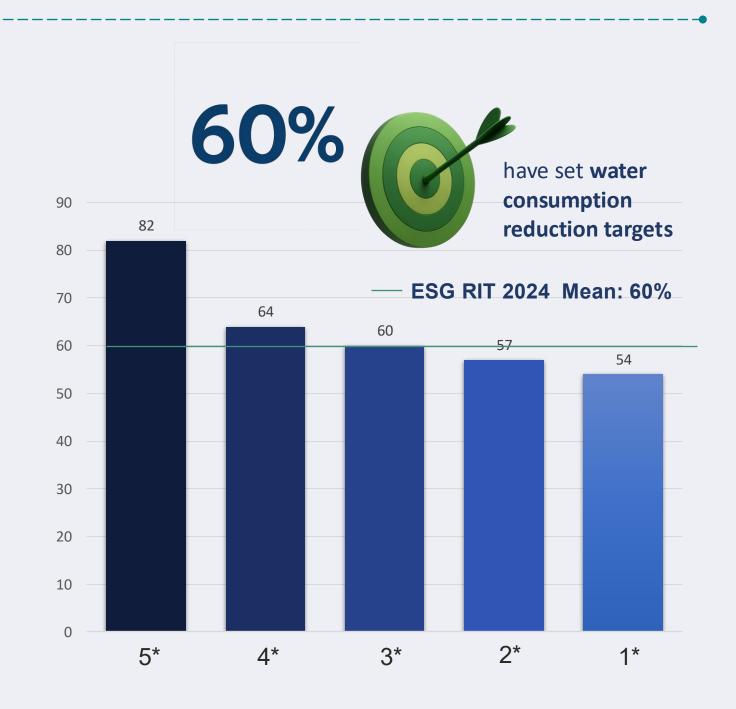




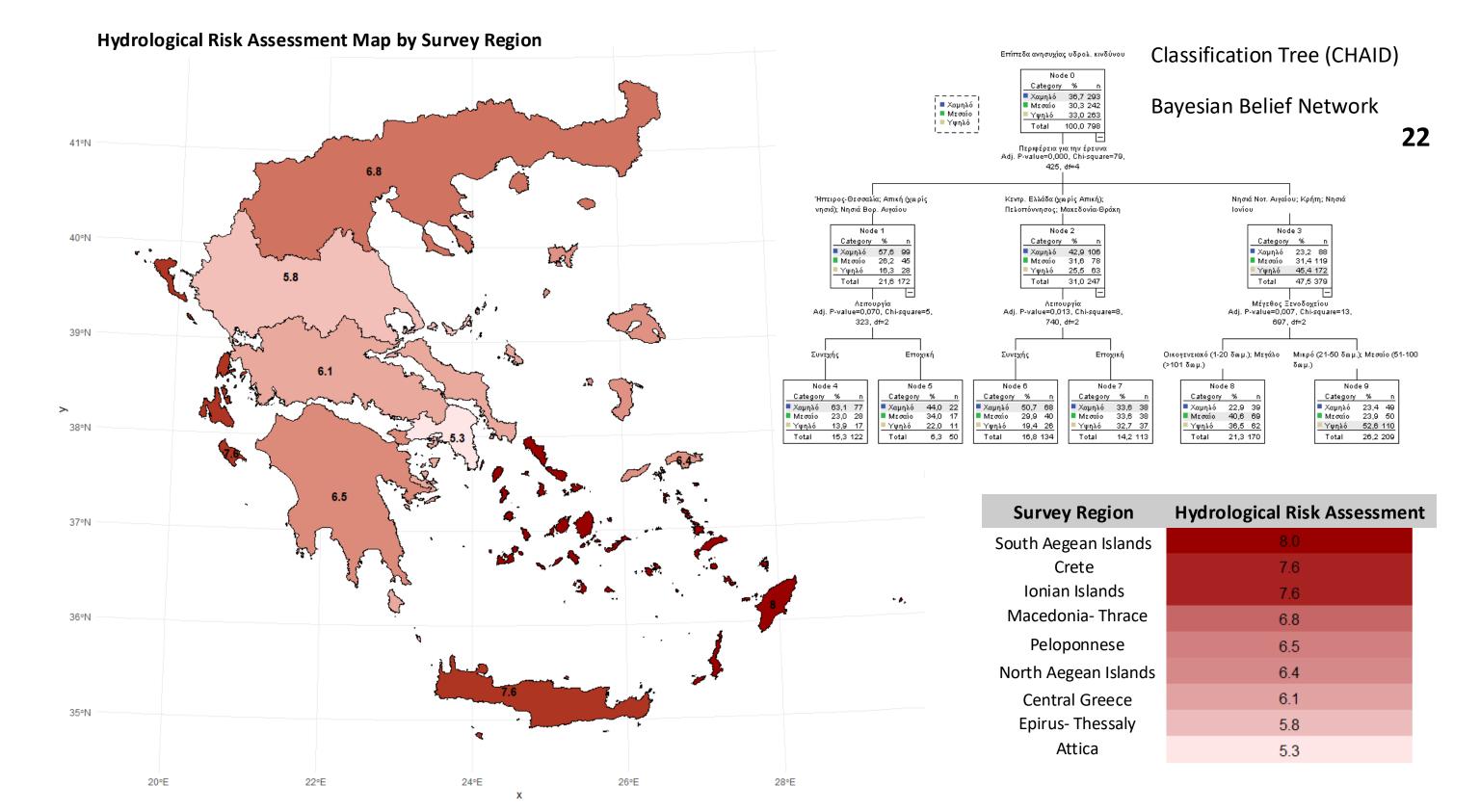


Increase in the percentage of hotels that have a water consumption recording and monitoring system:









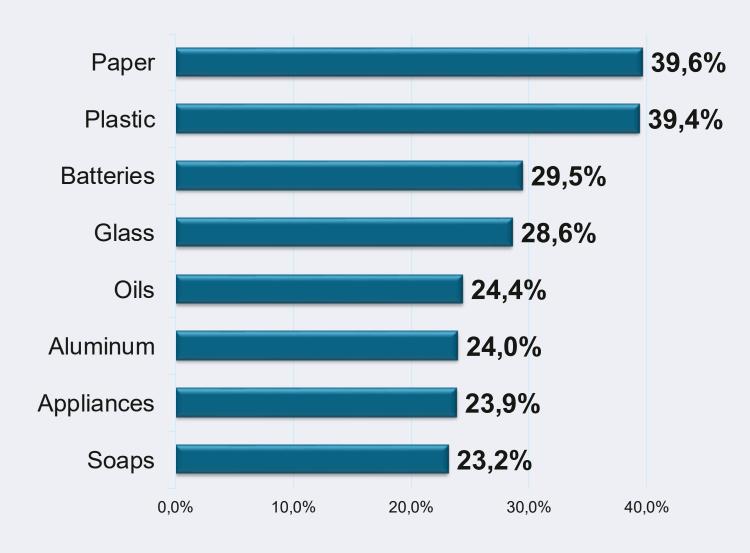


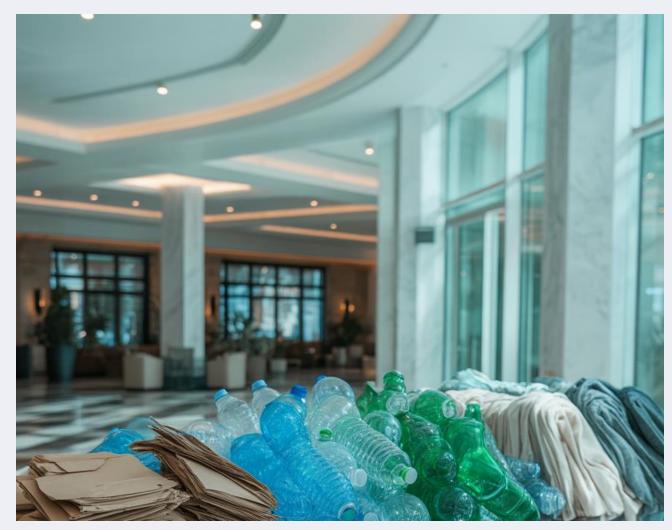
# ESG.3

# WASTE MANAGEMENT



# Actions to Reduce Material Use in Greek Hotels

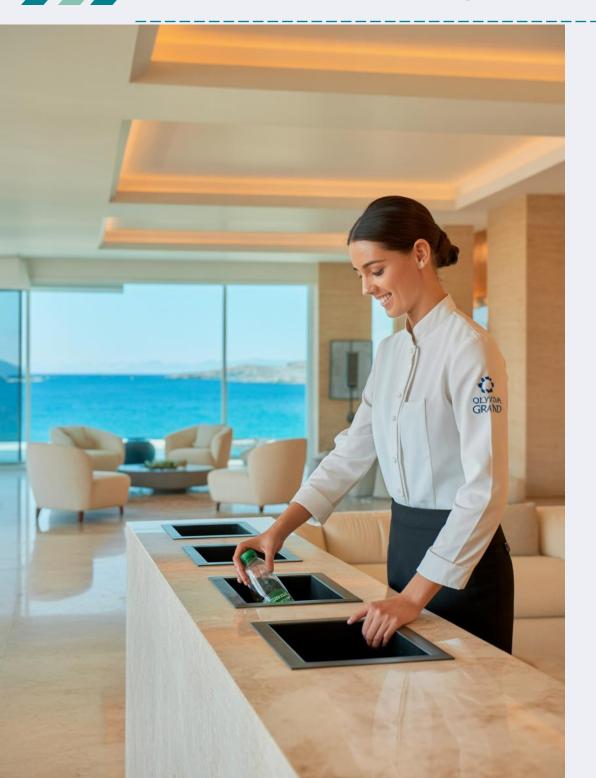


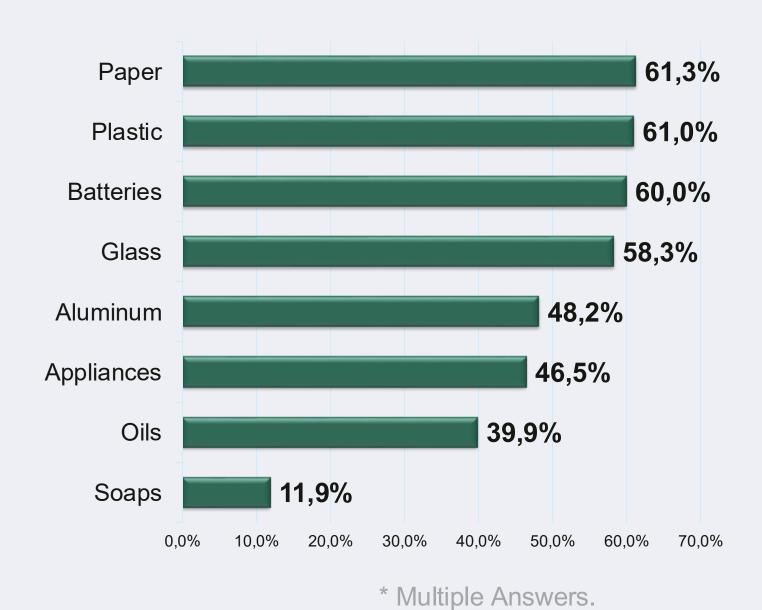




\* Multiple Answers.

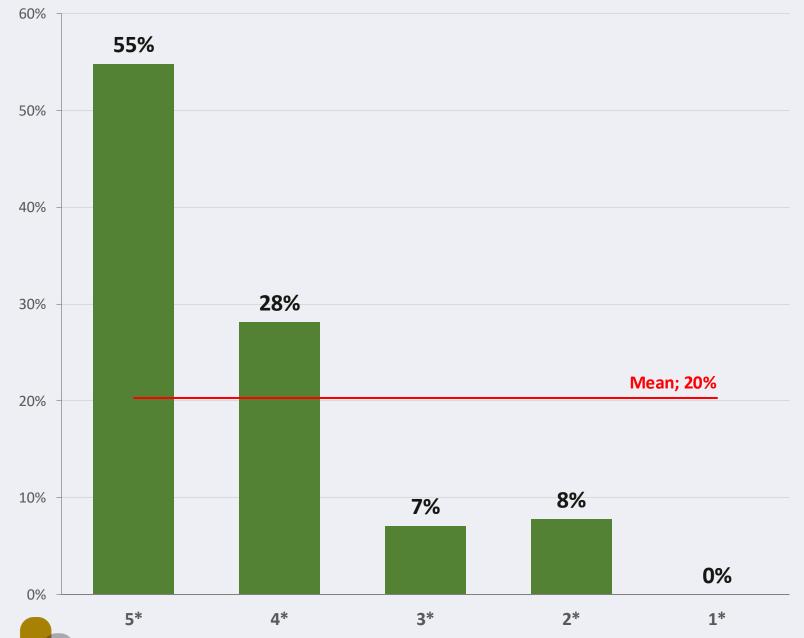
# Material Recycling Actions in Greek Hotels

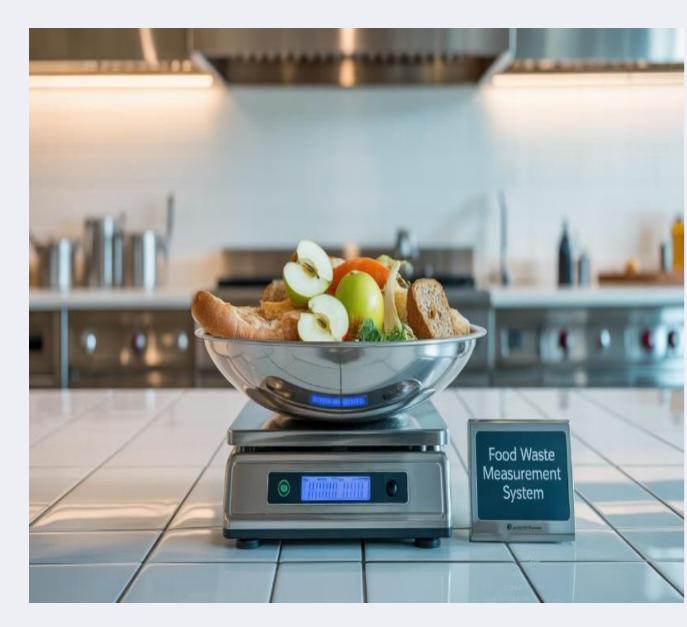






# Food Waste Monitoring and Measurement Systems in Hotels with on-site Restaurants

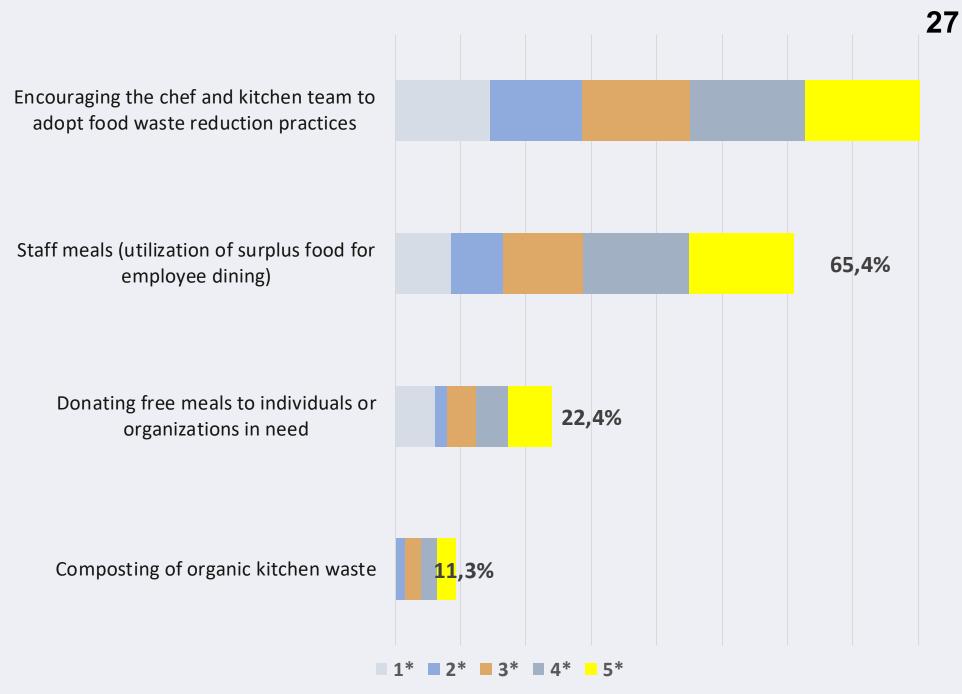






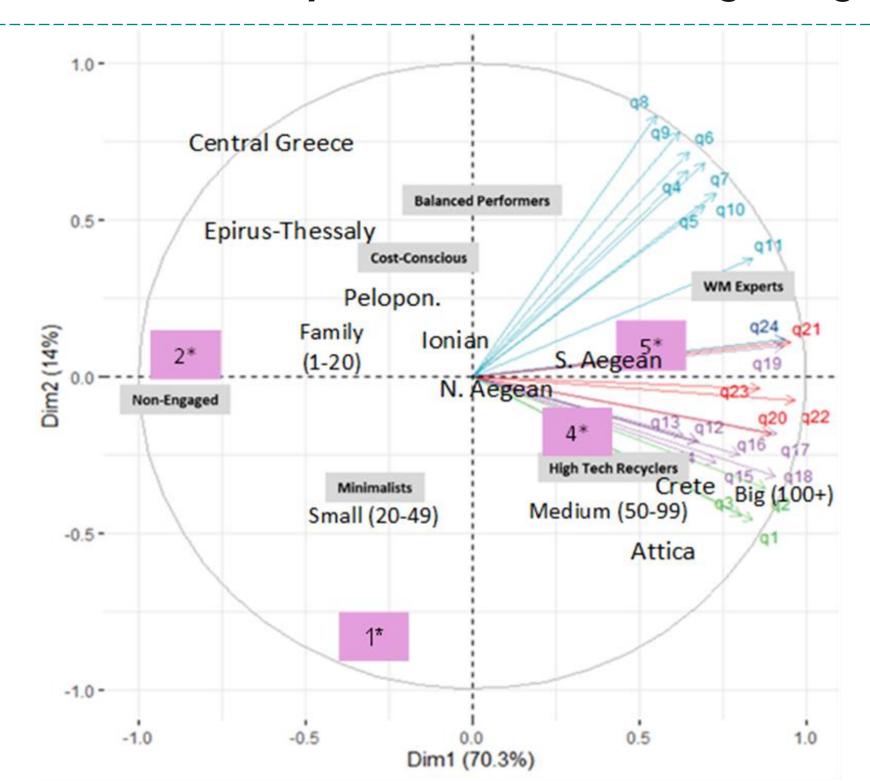
# Greek Hotels Implementing Kitchen Waste Minimization Practices







# Multivariate Profile Analysis of Greek Hotels Regarding Waste Management







## Segments – Profiles of Greek Hotels Regarding Waste Management

(O)



Hotels with high adoption rates of waste monitoring and food waste management systems.

25% are 5-star hotels and 33% have over 100 rooms.

### WM Experts (9,3%)

50% are 4 and 5-star hotels with at least 50 rooms. They exhibit the highest adoption rates of waste management practices (>90%).

### Minimalists (33,9%)

حرکم

The largest segment, with basic recycling as the only waste-related practice. No clear profile in terms of region, size, or hotel category.

### Non-engaged (19,4%)

60% are small, family-run hotels with approximately 20 rooms in the 1 or 2-star category. Almost no waste management practices are applied.

### Balanced Performers (12,6%)

Perform well both in recycling and material reduction. 35% are located in the South Aegean and 90% are small, family-owned hotels.

### Cost Conscious (15,4%)

Focused on cost-saving strategies. Only 10% hold any environmental or sustainability certification.





# Input-Output Analysis: Cross-Sectoral Linkages Between the Hotel Sector and the Waste Management Sector

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We examine the interconnections between the hotel sector and the waste management sector in the Greek economy, using the Input-Output Analysis methodology.



### The Hotel Sector

Shows low dependency on the waste management sector, both in terms of sales and purchases of inputs.



### The Waste Management Sector

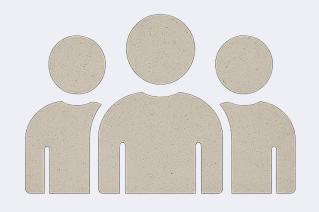
Exhibits high dependency on the hotel sector both for selling its services (outputs) to hotels and for purchasing inputs from the hotel sector.



### **Cross-Sectoral Relationships**

In conclusion, there is no mutual interdependence between the two sectors. Rather, the relationship appears to be one-sided, with the waste management sector depending on the hotel sector.



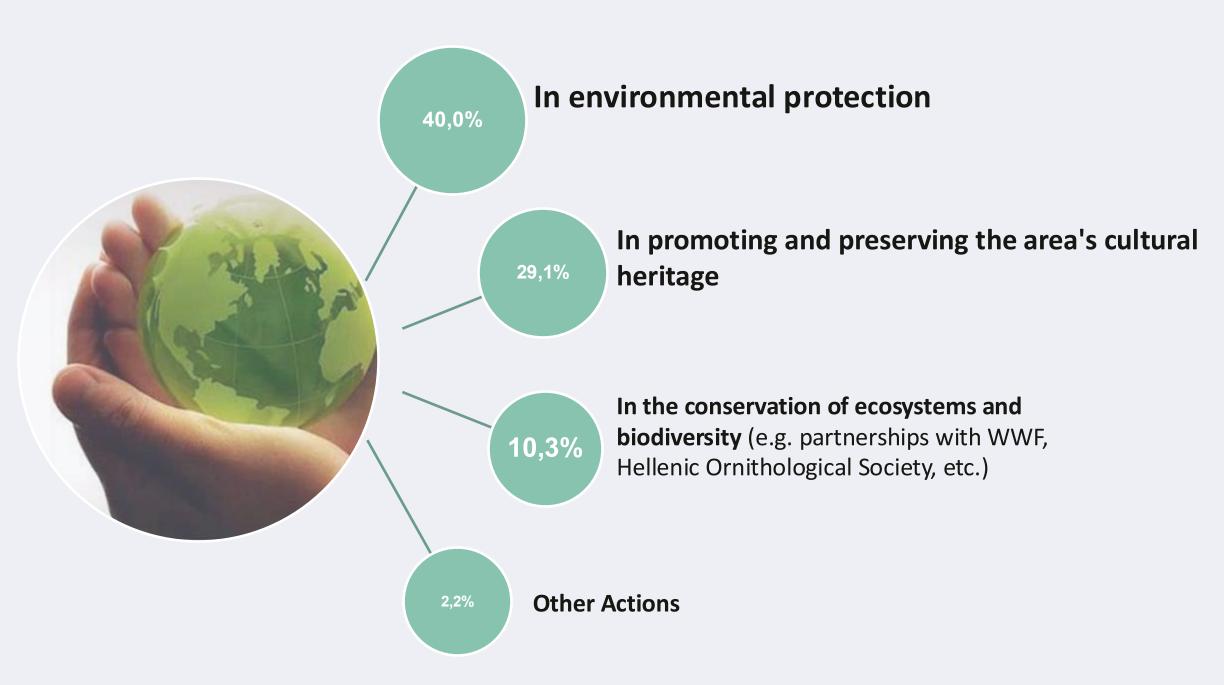


# ESG.4

# SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABILITY











# Hotel Investments in Sustainability Actions, 2024



In 2024, investments by Greek hotels exceeded €1 billion.

Out of this, **20%**, **or €200 million**, was allocated to sustainability-related actions.

40TEL 20,3% (€36,0 million)

40TEL 19,8% (€99,3 million)

40TEL 23,2% (€33,7 million)

40TEL 27,5% (€30,7 million)

6,3% (€5,8 million)



# Types of Products Used by Hotels – Percentages



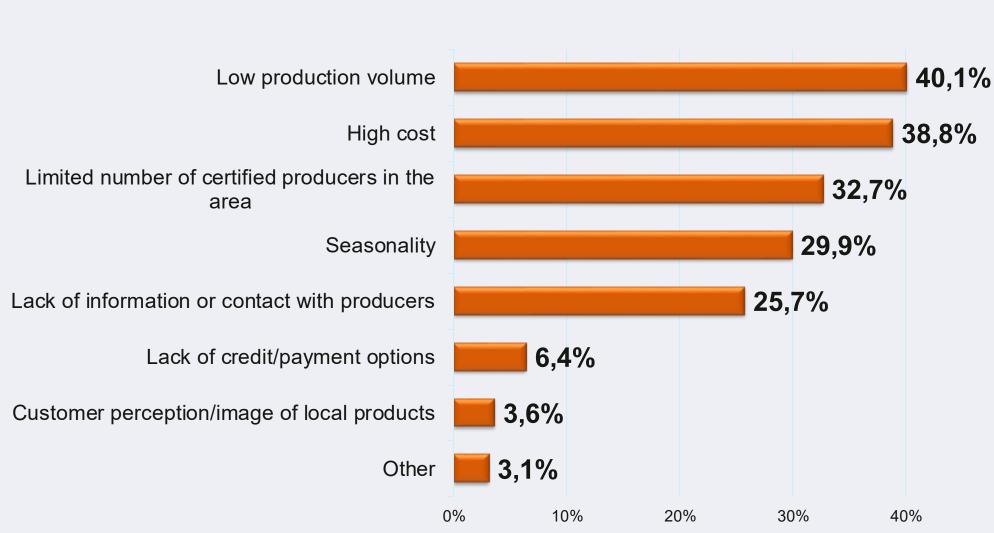








# Challenges in the Collaboration Between Hotels and Local Producers





\*Multiple Answers, max. 3.





# ESG.5

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT









Increase in the percentage of hotels informing guests about **reducing** the carbon footprint of their stay.



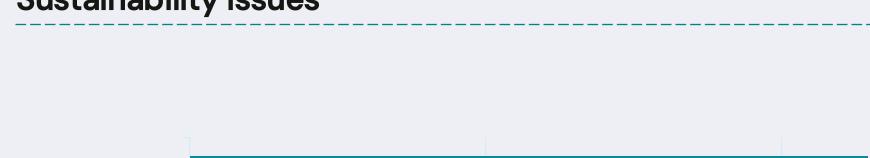
Category	GOOGLE- RIT 2023	RIT- HCH 2024	
5*	61%	53%	
4*	42%	38%	
3*	35%	30%	
2*	27%	25%	
1*	26%	25%	

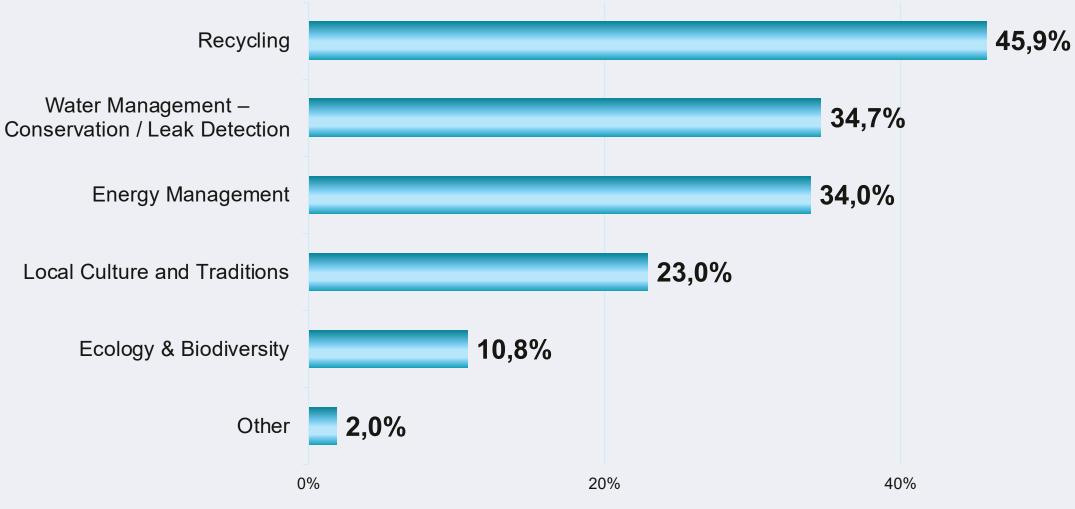




### Percentage of Hotels Implementing Staff Training and Awareness Programs on

Sustainability Issues





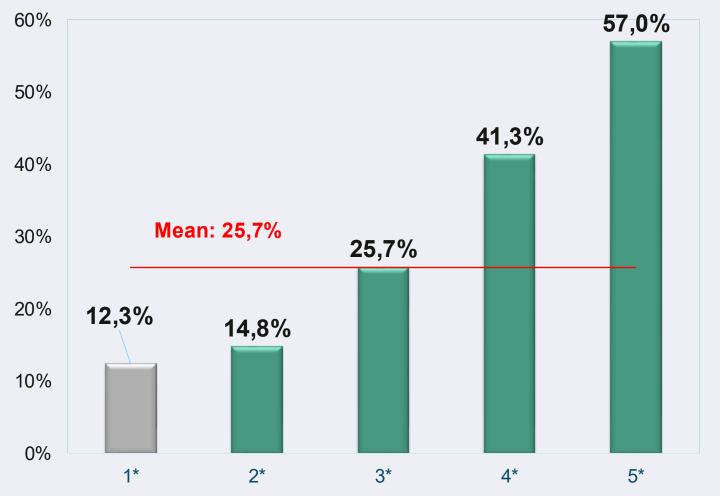






# Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Percentage of Hotels Implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Actions Related to the Environment and Local Community, by category:

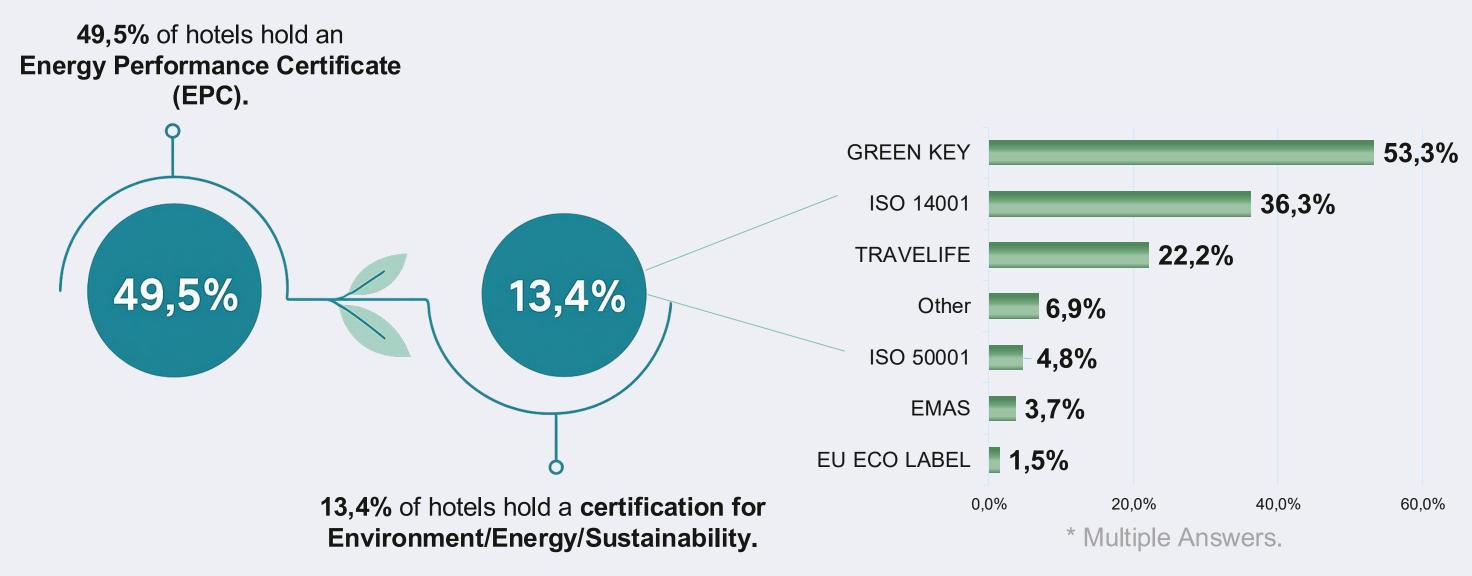


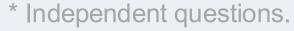




# Greek Hotels with Energy and Sustainability Certifications

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### **Conclusions**

- The analysis of the RIT/HCH ESG 2024 survey data, combined with relevant findings from other RIT studies, clearly demonstrates that Greek hotels are gradually moving towards a more sustainable operational model.
- Levels of commitment, goal-setting, and awareness are high across all hotel categories, but progress-especially on a technological level- remains uneven.
- Larger and higher-category hotels are making significant investments in new technologies and systems to monitor and implement their sustainability goals.
- Smaller and lower-category hotels tend to adopt more immediate, visible, and cost-effective solutions, while more technically demanding projects and investments are applied to a limited extent.
- This highlights the urgent need for information, training, incentives, and subsidies for technological upgrades aimed at their sustainable development, as well as strategic support from the State and local authorities.
- The ESG 2025 survey will launch in the summer with the aim of updating previous results and assessing the evolution of sustainability indicators in Greek hotels.











































