

## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

At Helsbury Park we recognise that we are incredibly lucky to live in such a beautiful place and that everything we do has an environmental and social cost locally and globally. As a result we are committed to continuous improvements in environmental and social performance to promote Sustainable Tourism and to keep Helsbury Park and the surrounding area beautiful and thriving for future generations.

We do this so far by:

- Increasing energy efficiency by:
  - increasing insulation
  - double glazing and lined curtains
  - high efficiency boilers
  - using low energy light bulbs
  - introducing solar thermal for heating water
  - using a green electricity tariff (with electric supplementary heating)
  - installing wood burners and supplying logs and kindling from ethical sources
  - upgrading to A rated appliances
  - installing ground-source heating in the pool
  - putting a sedum roof on the pool
  - installing sun pipes in pool.
- Reducing waste going to landfill:
  - buying goods locally with a minimum of packaging
  - buying bulk-fill cleaning products
  - reusing shopping bags
  - shredding paper for animal bedding
  - composting
  - recycling as much material as possible (2 tonnes in the last year)
- Minimising food miles and supporting the local economy by promoting local farm shops, restaurants, pubs, etc.
- Not replacing our printed brochure but doing all our marketing online and by electronic means.
- Providing bikes for guests to use, on site walks and lots of information on car-free activities in the local area and public transport.

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- Using environmentally friendly, recycled and Fair Trade products
  - Fair Trade tea, coffee and sugar
  - M&A and Ecover cleaning and laundry products
  - recycled glasses from Green Glass
  - recycled & chlorine free toilet paper & sanitary bags
  - local, ozone laundry service
  - locally produced herbal soap and shampoo.
- Ensuring that waste and effluent is disposed of in a responsible manner:
  - food waste is composted
  - effluent processed through a septic tank, soak away and bio-treatment plant
  - surface water is handled as above and natural reed beds.
- Improving water efficiency
  - installing/converting to dual flush lavatories
  - upgrading to A rated appliances
  - regularly checking for drips
  - installing new water pipes
  - harvesting rain water for gardens/animal troughs.
- Farm minimally
  - without using harmful chemicals and fertilisers
  - composting manure to use in garden
  - planted small mixed orchard (30 trees) including many Cornish varieties
  - maximising biodiversity and maintaining varied habitats
  - installed a hide in the woods for wildlife watching.
- Continuous monitoring. In the last 12 month monitored period we've:
  - used 17,585 units of Green Electricity (1,639 more than the previous year)
  - used 9,945 litres of oil (3,479 less than the previous year)
  - recycled 2 tonnes of cardboard, glass, tin, plastic and paper
  - used 631 litres of water (180 less than the previous year).
- Support our local community/economy, we:
  - sponsor community events
  - employ local people
  - favour local suppliers
  - attract year round business
  - use traditional building materials
  - members of environmental & marketing groups COAST & BOBM (Best of Bodmin Moor)
  - promote local attractions.

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- Communicate our efforts and encourage others through:
  - Visitor Information Folders
  - Surveys
  - Web site
  - Blog
  - eNewsletter
  - Notice Boards
  - the 'Green Nag'
  - presentations (COAST, Visit Britain, BOBM)

We have joined the Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project (known as CoaST) and the Green Tourism Business Scheme as an indication of our commitment to Sustainable Tourism.

## **The Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS)**

This is the most successful environmental accreditation body of tourism related businesses in Europe including accommodation providers, visitor attractions, tour operators and conference facilities. GTBS was originally established in Scotland to promote good environmental practice in Tourism throughout Europe. It covers issues such as business efficiency, waste management, transport and social responsibility.

The assessment considers energy efficiency, nature conservation, community support and general sustainability issues and dependant on the standards achieved businesses receive a bronze, silver or gold award. To gain a GTBS award, businesses are assessed once every two years by registered environmental auditors, who have considerable experience within the tourism sector. We are currently awaiting grading.

We already support the GTBS through our supply chain as our two biggest suppliers M&A Environmental (cleaning products) and Ocean Breeze Laundry are members. We also promote local attractions which are GTBS members:

- The Monkey Sanctuary
- Newquay zoo
- South West Lakes Trust
- Fifteen Cornwall
- St Michael's Mount
- Goonhilly Satellite Earth Station
- Carnglaze Caverns

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More detailed information on these attractions is available in our Visitor Information Folder. For more information on the scheme and a full list of members visit [www.green-business.co.uk](http://www.green-business.co.uk)

Visitors to Helsbury Park can help us in simple ways by:

- Following our Visitor Charter
- Recycling waste and composting uncooked kitchen waste in the bins provided.
- Switching off appliances, lights and taps when not in use, and reporting dripping taps.
- Putting sanitary waste, nappies, etc in the bin not down the loo.
- Using the washing lines in preference to tumble drying.
- Not leaving doors and windows open when the heating is on.
- Having a day on site or using our bikes to reduce car use.
- Using only our natural cleaning and laundry products.
- Not throwing away empty shampoo, laundry and cleaning product bottles or the bottles from your complimentary water as they can all be refilled.
- Looking out for the 'Green Nag', this little logo is dotted around to remind guests where there is a green option.



## Future Plans

To continue to make improvements in all areas of our business including specifically:

- installing solar panels for water heating on all cottages
- switching to recycled office paper and plastic for Frisbees and poo bags once existing stocks are used up
- investigating ways to generate our own electricity
- entering our land into the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

David & Leza Wilson  
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