



Simple ideas for sustainable tourism

Becoming an efficient, sustainable business is an ongoing process. If you are not ready for wind power or reed beds, etc. there are many simpler, easy to implement ideas, which go along way to minimise the impact of your business activities. This fact sheet contains many such ideas for tourist accommodation and catering businesses. All you need do is **MAKE A START!**

Fit thermostatic radiator valves – use them to implement a ‘zoned’ heating system. Reduce the heat right down in unoccupied rooms, make sure radiators are not obstructed by furniture. Don’t set thermostats too high, costs rise by 8% for every 1oc increase above 19oc

Increase Insulation - reducing the heat loss through the roof of your home. Hot air rises and it will happily and quickly rise up all the way up through your house and out through your roof if you let it – at your expense.

Fit spray taps and low capacity toilet cisterns – spray taps on handbasins typically save up to 80% of the water used with standard pillar taps. Sensor and push taps can save water where taps may be left on. Flush toilets have traditionally represented the largest single use of water in households. They account for around 30% of total domestic water use. Put plastic devices such as a hippos in your cisterns or fit dual flush toilets

Reuse water in the garden, install water butts to collect rain water or consider installing a grey water system to reuse laundry rinse water and kitchen waste water.

Low energy light bulbs now come in a variety of shapes and sizes to suit all kinds of lamps and shades and offer 60% energy savings!

Daylight is free – keep windows and skylights clean and unobstructed.

Install timers on heating and lighting controls, automatic movement sensors help to ensure that lights are not left burning in empty rooms and corridors. Use a timer or photo-sensor to ensure external lights are off during daylight hours.

Implement a ‘wash on request’ policy for towels

Install small sized kettles in all bedrooms

Provide environmental information for guests, tell them what you do outlining the efforts you have taken to become sustainable. It will enhance their experience, and might encourage them to take other steps to reduce the environmental impact of their visit, for example, by having a car-free day out.

Buy locally - visitors will be particularly thrilled to try local produce – a locally sourced menu is something to boast about. The same principles apply to other goods besides food. From tourist souvenirs and gifts, to mundane consumables for your guest rooms and office, locally supplied products and services will normally afford many benefits in terms of delivery, speed of response and accountability.

Buy recycled and environmentally responsible goods- by using clearly branded environmentally responsible products and recycled goods (such as paper towels and toilet rolls), you will not only be supporting environmental sustainability, you will also be showing your customers that you care about the environment. In a world where tourist visitors are increasingly citing environmental responsibility as a major factor in their decision making process, it makes good sense to make sure people know what what you do.