

Old Barn Holidays

Environmental Policy

Old Barn Holidays is a family run accommodation business, comprising of a guest house, holiday cottages and certified location caravan site.

We are very fortunate to work in one of the most beautiful areas of the country. However, with that comes the responsibility to ensure that we do as much as we can to reduce the impact of our business and that of our visitors on the environment. We have assessed those activities and identified that our significant environmental impacts include:

- a. **Energy consumption**
- b. **Waste management**
- c. **Local ecology**
- d. **Water usage**
- e. **Others – including chemical usage and education**

In order to promote good environmental practices our general environmental policies are:

1. To identify the significant environmental impacts of our activities.
2. To develop suitable objectives, targets and management programmes, applying appropriate operational procedures to minimise our significant environmental impacts during normal, abnormal and emergency conditions.
3. To comply with relevant legislation, regulation and other requirements relating to our significant environmental impacts.
4. To prevent pollution, minimise our inputs of utilities and resources and the outputs of emissions to the atmosphere, effluents to waters/sewers and wastes to disposal facilities; endeavouring to re-use, recover or recycle materials where practicable.
5. To ensure that environmental responsibilities are defined, communicated and understood at all levels within our organisation and provide appropriate training where needed
6. To strive for continual improvement in overall environmental performance.

What we are doing:

1. **Energy consumption**

- a. Energy conservation training
- b. Use maximum insulation wherever possible
- c. Avoid leaving appliances on stand-by
- d. We have installed thermostats to all radiators
- e. We have installed low energy light bulbs wherever possible
- f. Purchase energy efficient equipment

2. **Waste Management**

- a. Recycling – we have facilities for; glass, paper, cardboard, drinks cans
- b. Reduce packaging – we try to purchase products that have a minimum of packaging

c. Re-use as much as possible – we are investigating a dispenser system for cleaning products which means we will re-use containers

3. Local Ecology

- a. We have been awarded the Bronze CBEN environmental award and are looking to progress towards the Silver Award in the near future
- b. We have a rolling programme of tree planting to help minimise our carbon foot print.

4. Water Usage

- a. We are installing aerators in all guest bathrooms to reduce the level of water usage

5. Others - including chemical usage and education

- a. We are carrying out an audit of the chemicals we use on site we will then use this to highlight any practices or purchases that can be altered to reduce the use of any potential chemicals such as cleaning materials
- b. We are sourcing a reliable supply of recycled paper for use in offices and for marketing material. We are trying to find a supply which does not utilize harmful bleaches in its production process

What you can do:

1. Obviously you are here to enjoy the facilities and the area and most of all to have a great time but we would be very grateful if you could help us do our bit by following the following guidelines:
2. Help reduce energy consumption by switching off your bedroom lights when the room is empty, closing your curtains in winter to keep heat in the room, and turn down the thermostatic control on the radiator to a comfortable level.
3. Think about water consumption when taking a shower, and don't wash your hands or clean your teeth under a running tap – put the plug in instead!
4. Let us know if you notice any leaking or dripping taps – they lose a lot more than you think!
5. Help yourself to leaflets of local attractions but don't take more than you need and you could even return them after use.
6. Use our recycling facilities – for bottles, paper, cardboard, cans
7. Buy local or Fair Trade produce whenever you can.
8. Leave the car behind! Use the local transport. We are always happy to guide you on local walking routes – there are great views from all the routes and various visitor attractions within easy reach.
9. Don't drop litter. Litter can be very harmful to wildlife.
10. You can make a contribution to the Tourism & Conservation Partnership to help with local conservation projects.