

Westward Living Green Policy 2023

Here at Westward Living we are proud to be in one of the most beautiful parts of the UK. Set within 60 acres of coastal grounds within an Area of Natural Beauty in the UNESCO BISOPHERE.

We are mindful that many guests decide to visit due to our location and stunning natural environment, so we are very aware of our duty to protect our little piece of heaven in Devon. We have set ourselves short- and long-term targets to implement a comprehensive sustainability program including the following initiatives:

Renewable Energy: All our future upgrades and cottages will include renewable energy systems, such as solar panels or wind turbines, to generate clean energy for powering the holiday cottages. This will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease carbon emissions.

Energy Efficiency: We regularly conduct energy audits and implement energy-efficient measures throughout the cottages. This includes installing energy-saving appliances, LED lighting, and improving insulation to reduce energy consumption.

Water Conservation: We have implemented water-saving measures, such as low-flow toilets, faucets, and showers, to minimise water usage. We also encourage guests to participate in water conservation efforts by providing information and guidelines in the cottages.

Waste Reduction and Recycling: We have a comprehensive waste management system that includes recycling facilities for guests. We provide clearly labelled recycling bins and educate guests about the importance of reducing waste and recycling materials. Reference videos can be found in our digital guest book.

Digital Guest Books : Our guests are sent links to digital guest books pre arrival, this is a helpful resource to share information about the cottages, nearby by surrounding area and our green values. The digital guest book also mitigates the need for printed materials and is easy to update.

Local and Organic Food: We promote the use of local, seasonal, and organic produce for our welcome hampers and cream teas at our holiday cottages. This supports local farmers, reduces food miles, and encourages sustainable agricultural practices. Guests can purchase from local suppliers with discount codes unique to Westward Living. Our digital guest books have lots of details about nearby suppliers.

Green Transportation: Guests are encouraged to use eco-friendly transportation options, such as public transit, cycling, or walking, we provide lots of information about local transportation services and bike rentals. Our family cottages have bike racks and we provide information to the nearest local charging stations.

Environmental Education: We promote educational materials in the cottages to raise awareness about local ecosystems, wildlife, and environmental conservation efforts. We encourage guests to explore and appreciate the natural beauty of the surrounding area especially the visitor centre at Northam Burrows. Our business is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the UNSESCO Biosphere, so our green values are very important to us.

Collaborations with Local Environmental Organisations:

We have established partnerships with local environmental organisations including Plastic Free North Devon and support their initiatives including participating in beach clean-ups, conservation projects, or educational programs.

Sustainable Purchasing:

We prioritise the procurement of environmentally friendly and sustainable products, including cleaning supplies, linens, and amenities. We have considered the lifecycle impact of products and opt for eco-friendly alternatives whenever possible including replacing plastic toiletries with sustainable soap made for us by a local supplier.

Continuous Improvement:

Our green policy is a work in progress, and we aim to regularly assess and review the effectiveness of the green policy and seek feedback from guests and suppliers. We continuously identify new opportunities and innovations to enhance sustainability practices.

Implementing these green policies will not only contribute to the preservation of the environment but also attract eco-conscious guests who prioritise sustainable tourism options.

For more information or if you would like to chat through any green policy suggestions, please contact us on admin@westwardliving.co.uk