

Checklist for sustainable tourism



On the Path:

Save Energy

- Install thermostatic radiator valves if you don't already have them.
- Install a smart energy meter to monitor usage and save costs.
- Switch light bulbs to LED.
- Undertake a full insulation audit to make sure your building is as well insulated and draught-proofed as possible.
- Install shades/blinds on south-facing windows to reduce temperatures in summer and reduce the need to use air conditioning and fans.
- When it's time to replace appliances/equipment, choose the most energy efficient models you can afford.
- Measure your carbon footprint and understand your environmental impact, with a view to reducing your carbon footprint. You could use the [Carbon Trust's SME Carbon Footprint Calculator](#) or the [World Wildlife Fund Footprint Calculator](#)

Sustainable Travel

- Introduce small discounts or other incentives for visitors arriving by public transport or bicycle, or offer transport to get from local bus and train stations.
- Think about the facilities you provide – what do you offer for walkers, cyclists, nature watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts? How can you enhance your appeal to these visitors?

Support Local

- If you serve local produce or mention local suppliers, don't just say or write 'local', give full details of their name, exact location (& distance in relation to your business) and any other useful information you have about them.
- Consider how much of your menu is actually made from local ingredients? Is any of your furniture made locally? What other local suppliers do you use?
- Actively promote local artists and craft-makers.

Protect Nature

- Always buy peat-free compost.
- Create your own nutrient-rich compost by composting garden waste and vegetable peelings.
- Try to plant native trees and shrubs.
- Take part in the [RSPB Bird watch](#) and tell your guests about the local birds and wildlife. The RSPB Birdwatch helps to monitor how garden birds are faring, and explains how it is vital we do all we can to look after our birdlife.
- Consider making your own cleaning products. Vinegar, lemons, and bicarbonate of soda are the base for many really effective cleaning products.
- Try to use water-based paints when decorating, instead of oil-based ones which are less eco-friendly.

Save Water

- Collect rainwater in a water butt for the garden
- Water your garden plants at a cooler time of day so they retain more moisture.
- Don't cut grass too short – longer grass retains more moisture so doesn't need watering during the hotter summer months. Even if it goes brown, grass quickly bounces back.
- Reduce washing, e.g. replace towels less frequently
- Ensure toilets have a dual-flush system.
- Carry out a flow rate assessment of taps and showers.

Reduce Waste

- Use shampoo bars and soap, or refill shampoo and shower gels at zero-waste shops.
- Buy environmentally friendly toilet rolls that use recycled paper and aren't wrapped in plastic.
- Use wax wraps to keep food longer, instead of cling film.
- Use fabric wraps for gifts instead of paper.