

Environmental Policy of Blake Cottage

To conserve energy wherever possible

To recycle, reuse and reduce waste

To reduce transport costs by using local amenities

To promote sustainability and comply with environmental legislation

To liaise with the local community

Measures in practice to promote the above:

Solar panels installed to provide hot water and low energy light bulbs used throughout.

Composted kitchen and garden waste being reused in garden.

Recycle glass, cans, paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, foil, batteries and excess green waste.

Eco friendly cleaning products.

Shopping locally whenever possible and local organic fruit and vegetable delivery service offered.

Provision of re-useable shopping bags.

Information provided on walks, cycle trails, bus timetables and local amenities within walking distance. Secure bicycle storage provided.

Collection of guests from bus or train stations, including transportation of bicycles if needed, to encourage non car use.

Restoration of the property: reused timber where possible and kitchen units predominately second hand, refurbished and repainted. Existing quarry tile floor restored, bedroom carpet and all curtains had been previously used elsewhere.

Highest level of insulation in roof space together with thermal and acoustic insulation in party walls.

All radiators have individual thermostats and the main thermostat has a manual override facility for instant reduction in heating when the property is vacated.

Naturally vented laundry room with drying racks and use of outside washing line promoted. Airing cupboard enclosing boiler and water tank utilizing heat residue.

All doors and windows double glazed to current high standards and curtains lined to conserve heat.

All hot water and heating pipes are housed within wall cavity and fully insulated. Toilets are dual flush, shower has eco setting and taps have aeration nozzles.

Energy Performance Certificate – Energy Efficiency 77 Environmental Impact 82

Bird box within small naturalized area and a wide range of herbaceous plants to encourage wildlife.

Within walking distance of the Linear Park Conservation Area which is in the heart of the Royal Forest of Dean, with its abundance of flora and fauna, and adjacent to the Wye Valley area of outstanding natural beauty.

GUEST ADVICE

Please help us in our effort to save the environment – these are some of the recommended ways to help and we would appreciate it if you would take note of these whilst still having a comfortable, enjoyable time at Blake Cottage.

Use of water – avoid overfilling the kettle, use shower whenever possible and keep pressure as low as possible, only use washing machine with a full load (setting H at 30°), turn off tap while cleaning teeth and use the dishwasher (running only when full). We have installed a water butt by the back steps into the garden which is used to water the garden and can be used for cleaning bikes and boots.

Harmful substances – please avoid flushing inappropriate substances in the toilets and only use the cleaners provided. Use the bathroom bin for sanitary waste and dispose of dog waste in bags provided in utility room cupboard and place in the dustbin for non-recyclable waste. Make sure batteries and light bulbs are left in the recycling box for us to dispose of.

Towels and Bedding – if you do not need to use all the towels or bedding provided please leave them folded on the shelf in the bathroom or on the sofa in the small room upstairs so we do not use unnecessary energy to wash unused items.

Drying – please use outside washing line whenever possible or the drying racks in the utility room. The airing cupboard utilises heat residue from solar heated tank.

Energy Use – we have provided an energy monitor in the sitting room where you can see how you are using electricity and consequently could switch something off if it is not necessary for the comfort of your stay. We do ask that you do not leave things on standby and switch off lights when not necessary. Also use the individual room thermostats on radiators so you only heat the rooms you need. The main thermostat outside the bathroom will instantly turn down to 16° when pressed ONCE and back to 21° when pressed again (providing you to not turn this knob). The temperature displayed otherwise is the current room temperature and will not be altered simply by turning the knob (this will only increase the cut-off temperature).

Curtains – please close curtains at night to conserve heat.

Use public transport, bikes or walk – timetables, maps, bike hire and walking information provided.

Local producers and services – please support local businesses; as this way you are supporting the area, saving energy on transport costs, discovering the real quality of the Forest of Dean and helping local businesses.

Please find copies of the **Countryside Code** on the coffee table – this reminds visitors to respect, protect and enjoy this outstanding area for future visits.

Please return unused visitor attraction leaflets for reuse.

We welcome any comments and ideas you may have to add to our endeavours.

Thank you for your help.

Sally and Richard