

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AT GRAIG WEN

Sarah and John took over Graig Wen in September 2007. We are making changes both now and in the long term to enhance this special environment and reduce the impact of our business on it.

We are working to reduce our environmental impact through minimizing use of gas, electricity and water and reducing waste and sewage. We are conscious that many of guests arrive by car and, as Graig Wen is well served by public transport, we are encouraging people to lessen their carbon footprint by using public transport to reach us or explore once they are here. We offer reduced rates for guests arriving without a car and can provide a pick up service from the local train station.

We are developing partnerships with other organisations to help us manage areas of neglected woodland, encourage native broad leaved trees and protect other flora and fauna. We aim to balance the land use to create varied habitats suitable for sheep grazing, short-term coppicing, wildlife and woodland regeneration – and of course camping! We have erected bird-boxes and other sanctuaries for wildlife around the site. We will encourage campers to use wood felled within our woodland management scheme for firewood, reducing the impact of dead wood removal from the woodland floor. Long term aims are to restore the neglected dry stone walls to keep sheep out of woodlands, this will encourage the establishment of ground flora and woodland succession. Any planting throughout involves native species sourced from local provenance.

We have installed more energy efficient systems to provide heat and hot water for the B & B and in the long term we aim to install a biomass boiler fuelled by our own timber. We also plan to replace the toilet block with a shower-block using green building methods and renewable energies.

Our water is obtained from a mountain cavern and we are making efforts to conserve water by introducing devices such as low flush WCS, hippos and compost toilets for the camp site.

We ask all our guests to recycle waste and provide facilities for recycling glass, paper, cans and to compost vegetable waste. We regret that the local authority cannot yet assist us to recycle plastic in this area although we understand this will improve by end of 2009.

We try and use local suppliers, materials and contractors wherever possible and we reuse and salvage materials such as furniture, fixtures and fittings – using our own wood where possible. We are keen users of www.freecycle.co.uk and have commissioned local craft business Sylvantutch to make furniture from reclaimed wood and slate.

The cleaning products we use are eco-friendly and our marketing materials and stationery use recycled materials. We monitor our energy usage and have replaced all lights with energy efficient bulbs and sensors.

We serve locally produced food and drink whenever possible and champion the use the wonderful meat, dairy and fish produce of North Wales - as well as Welsh whisky and Snowdonia ale...

We are developing an organic vegetable patch and are planning to revitalize an old orchard.

In May 2009 we were proud to have been presented with a Green Snowdonia Award by the Chair of Snowdonia National Park for “ Most Sustainable Camp site”.

7 June 2009

www.graigwen.co.uk