

## EAST LOTHIAN COTTAGES ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

We at East Lothian Cottages are very conscious that guests visit our properties to enjoy a peaceful break in the countryside, with all the natural beauty that should entail. We are also very conscious of the impact of our actions and those of our guests on the wider world.

While we recognise that almost any activity has some form of impact, we see it as a duty to ensure that guests staying in our cottages can do so knowing that their footprint is kept to a minimum.

This makes not just business sense, to allow guests to enjoy their stay, but personal sense, too: we live here!

We are therefore proud to have made the following commitments:

- **We will work continually to reduce the environmental impact of our business**
- **At every stage we seek maximum environmental gain for minimum environmental impact**
- **Where a conflict exists between profit and the environment, we undertake to do all we can to put the environment first**
- **Ethical issues, biodiversity and sustainability will always be factors when making decisions relating to our business**

Recent examples of our efforts to abide by these commitments include:

- ensuring all electricity used on-site is as green as possible by signing up to not just a 'green' tariff, but one of the few suppliers that actively invests in renewable infrastructure
- installing solar panels to maximise our own on-site renewable generation
- encouraging Electric Vehicle use and offering charging at a fair rate
- providing bicycle storage, workshop and route maps to encourage local cycling
- providing guests with washing/drying facilities and local maps to encourage walking
- providing guests with full details of local public transport options
- ensuring guests are aware of the need to reduce consumption
- investigating alternatives to the current oil-fired heating in The Muckle Snug
- off-setting all oil use, and advertising such to guests to encourage similar off-setting
- encouraging and pursuing behavioural change, both in guests and in ourselves
- supplying alternatives to chemically-laden cleaning detergents
- supplying alternatives to plastic-bottled shampoos, conditioners and moisturisers
- supplying alternatives to plastic sponge cloths, scourers and plastic-wrapped soaps
- encouraging biodiversity through the use of organic weedkillers only
- hosting local beekeepers' hives
- coppicing hazel for firewood
- developing mixed hedges around the site to provide wildlife habitats
- planting trees
- replanting Christmas trees
- favouring lime mortar over cement in repairs and building works
- developing an environmental blog at <https://positivelygreen.blog> to investigate the small steps we all can take to make a positive difference

We actively encourage suggestions and advice, so do please let us know if you have any thoughts on how we can do better.

May 2019