



## COMPOST TOILETS & GREEN DESIGN

CATEGORY: WASTE

CASE STUDY YEAR: 2007

### Business Details:

**Newt Cottage Farm Holiday Beal  
Berwick on Tweed**



<http://www.huntinghall.co.uk>

### Description:

Newt Cottage is a single self-catering unit with two bedrooms one double bed and two singles. Newt Cottage was a restoration project which incorporated a strong green philosophy. The overall design concept and the specification was researched and set up by the owners through a teenage environmental group, the Northumbrian Eco Wild Team (Newts). Other features in the green build include the use of sheeps wool insulation, use of eco paints, a heat pump, solar panels, use of green energy tariffs and low energy lighting. The owners supply homegrown organic produce, use fair trade items, recycled products recycling facilities such as composting systems as well as provide excellent walking and wildlife information. One of the most novel features in the development is the option to use a COMPOST TOILET. This unit was supplied from Canada and is known as an Envirolet system.



#### Economic

- Incorporating green design issues into the build ensures that the running costs of the unit are minimised. Guests use between 10 and 30 kWh per day.
- Although some green design elements are expensive (such as sheeps wool insulation) the promotion of these values to the guest can increase occupancy and the value of staying in a "green cottage"
- Green issues provide a feel good factor which creates greater customer loyalty. Newt Cottage operates at 100% occupancy
- Guests are encouraged to note how much energy they have used and provide feedback on their green holiday experience.



#### Environmental

- Using the most energy efficient systems ensures that the buildings energy performance is good.
- The use of low embodied energy products, restoration of an older building use of local produce and ecofriendly alternatives reduces the long term damage to the planet
- Encouraging guests to change habits while on holiday can change their behaviour in the future.



#### Social

- The involvement of children in the green concept design and refurbishment has helped raise awareness and broaden participation in decision making.
- The business supports social enterprises such as SUMA co-op and is a positive member of the GTBS acting as a champion for the scheme and sharing good practice with businesses and guests

#### WEB

Hunting Hall Green farm: <http://www.huntinghall.co.uk>  
The Big Tent Festival: <http://www.bigtentfestival.co.uk/News.htm>  
North Energy: <http://www.northenergy.co.uk>