

CASE STUDY: FIELD STUDY CENTRE IN DEVON

Green
Tourism



Audit Year: 2010

GTBS Award: GOLD

Business Name: Slapton Ley Field Centre

Business Type: Field Centre

Location: Devon, ENGLAND

Website: www.field-studies-council.org/slaptonley

Slapton Ley Field Centre is an outdoor education centre run by the Field Studies Council in Slapton, Devon. The Centre runs a range of educational activities for GCSE, A Level and university groups, environmental professionals and others with a general interest in the outdoors. In addition to the educational courses the centre offers a holistic learning experience with many examples of best practise demonstrated across the member's buildings and facilities. The member has achieved a GOLD Green Tourism award in 2008 and 2010.

Sustainable Design

Sustainable design is clearly demonstrated across the centre's education, catering and accommodation buildings. Onsite renewable energy is generated through a biomass heating system and ground source heat pump while a proportion of the electricity is generated through a solar PV array (see image). There are future plans to install a wind turbine. The buildings are well insulated with 12" of roof insulation and double glazing fitted throughout. All lighting is fluorescent and all tubes are recycled. Lighting is carefully controlled with motion sensors in the accommodation blocks.

To help inform visitors about the site's green technology and principles, there is a wide variety of green information across the site. For instance there are display boards at the solar panels to explain how the system works and how much electricity is produced.

Local & Ethical Purchasing

The centre's canteen and tuck shop provide food and drink for residents and local and ethical purchasing is highly considered. Fair trade is strongly supported with the use of Fair Trade certified tea, coffee, sugar and chocolate biscuits. The centre caters for people with a wide range of diets, and ensures at least one vegetarian main course available in the canteen.

England's South West region is famed for its food and drink and provenance is highlighted on a display board in the canteen. Local meat and dairy products are used where possible. The tuck shop sells a range of recycled stationery to visitors.

Continuous Improvement

Since the centre's first Green Tourism grading in 2008 the centre has been keen to innovate as part of a commitment to continuous improvement. An example of this is the incorporation of a rainwater harvesting system to provide water for toilets during the building of a new accommodation block.

Key to the continuous improvement at Slapton Ley is the regular monitoring of utilities. Regular energy and water meter readings are taken which are matched against targets for resource reduction. Long term environmental changes can be assessed against fifty years of ecological surveys which have been undertaken at the centre. The site has a visitor feedback questionnaire which includes a green question and the results of which have been used to inform management team decisions.

Web Links

Green Buildings: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk, www.ukgbc.org, www.cat.org.uk
Rainwater harvesting: www.kingspanwater.com, www.freerain.co.uk, www.ukrha.org
Devon links: www.visitdevon.co.uk, www.devontourismadvice.co.uk