



Friday, 30th November 2007

HOSPITABLE CLIMATES HELPS YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION ACHIEVE £170,000 WORTH OF ENERGY SAVINGS!

“Use of Hospitable Climates has proved highly effective across YHA’s wider network, achieving a reduction in our headline energy per overnight target of 10% over the last two years, a financial saving of approximately £170,000.”

Ewan Boyd, Environmental Officer, YHA (England & Wales) Ltd

YHA Langdon Beck is a long-standing member of Hospitable Climates, the energy saving programme for the hospitality sector, managed by the Institute of Hospitality with support from the Carbon Trust.

The 30-bed youth hostel, set in a stunning but very exposed location 1,300 feet up in the wild North Pennines, has been developing as an environmental education centre since the mid 1990s.

Ewan Boyd, YHA’s Environmental Officer, explains how Langdon Beck has used a range of energy conservation and carbon reducing features and how the Hospitable Climates Programme has helped its efforts with energy management and to achieve a 50% cut in total energy consumption,

“The hostel has a range of energy conservation and carbon reducing features, including;

- *Sheep’s wool loft insulation and cavity wall insulation*
- *Fully double glazed windows*
- *Replacement of open coal fire with woodburning stove*
- *Solar hot water panels*
- *2.5kW wind turbine*
- *2.4kW solar PV system*

At the outset of the project the hostel consumed a total in excess of 140,000kWhs pa, with a carbon footprint of 44 tonnes. Last year these figures were 69,000kWhs and 13.4 tonnes. A total of 60% of electricity is now generated on site, and the remainder is purchased from renewable providers.

A key part of the work here has been in customer communication and education. The use of ‘Good Guest Cards’ encourages visitors to use energy more efficiently, and there are rigorous daily management routines relating to energy management and monitoring. The Hospitable Climates Programme has been used for the last three years to bolster these efforts and has provided further impetus to these efforts.”

Hospitable Climates has, since 2000, been helping UK hospitality businesses use less energy and use what they do, wisely. Supported by the Carbon Trust, Hospitable Climates is the only **hospitality specific** energy saving advisory programme and boasts over 6,000 members who, as a result of their energy saving actions have made an important contribution to the government’s carbon dioxide emissions reduction target, while at the same time reducing their own energy costs.

“The Langdon Beck YHA example is one of many which demonstrates vividly the savings which can be achieved through the implementation of sound energy management disciplines across a business. The use of modern and older technologies, combined with no-cost initiatives has created an energy environment which is altogether more efficient, and in keeping with the ideals and objectives of the YHA.” Philippe Rossiter, Chief Executive, Institute of Hospitality

“YHA operates in 200 of the best locations in England and Wales, many of which are in spectacular countryside and coastal settings. For this reason, we have a duty to ensure the impact of our buildings and guests on their stunning surroundings is kept to an absolute minimum.

We already operate two Green Beacon hostels - YHA Langdon Beck and YHA Lockton - which meet exacting eco-standards in sustainability and we expect the number to more than double in the next few months.

But on top of that, across the network, sustainable methodology is employed whenever and wherever possible in the form of hydro-electric power, grey-water recycling, PV cells, boilers powered by sustainable timber chippings, recycled insulation and many other schemes.

We also have a network-wide commitment to sourcing as much local produce for our food as possible, keeping food miles to a minimum and our electricity is sourced entirely from sustainable sources. This is only a start and we know we can do more, so we will strive to make many more environmentally-friendly steps in the future.” Chris Darmon, YHA Chairman

Further information is available at www.hospitableclimates.org.uk or telephone the Hospitable Climates administrator on 0208 661 4932.

ENDS

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2) In 2005 the Langdon Beck YHA became the UK's first tourism business of any kind to be awarded the coveted EU Eco Label Award. The EU Eco Label is a voluntary scheme designed to encourage businesses to market products and services that are kinder to the environment and for European consumers - including public and private purchasers - to easily identify them.

3) Launched nationally in 2000, 'Hospitable Climates' is an energy efficiency agreement between the Institute of Hospitality - the professional body for hospitality, tourism and leisure managers worldwide - and the Government. It is an energy advisory programme, supported by the Carbon Trust and managed by the Institute of Hospitality on behalf of the Hospitable Climates network - comprising the British Institute of Innkeeping (BII), the British Hospitality Association (BHA), the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR) and the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA).

It offers all sectors of the UK hospitality industry, regardless of size or whether they are chain-owned or independent, a free advisory service to help reduce energy consumption, whilst at the same time, enabling users to make a substantial contribution to the country's CO₂ emissions-reduction targets with their combined efforts.

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