



The Craflwyn Centre Environmental Statement 2007

What is the Craflwyn Centre?

Craflwyn is a National Trust centre offering a unique environment for volunteering, training, learning, conferences and special interest holidays. The centre provides a base for the National Trust's work throughout the West Snowdonia and Llŷn area and includes a variety of accommodation types, a campsite, offices and storage facilities.

What are our Environmental Impacts?

The National Trust at Craflwyn recognises its responsibility to limit its impact on the environment and will conduct its activities to demonstrate best practice and promote sustainability. Craflwyn's environmental impacts are primarily associated with the running of the centre and operations that are based at Craflwyn which take place throughout the wider estate. By our nature, the Trust delivers a considerable amount of positive environmental impacts throughout the area. However, the main negative environmental impacts are associated with the:

- Use of electricity, oil, LPG and petrol.
- Disposal of general waste to landfill sites.
- Supply and disposal of water.
- Use of raw materials.

What are our Commitments to Reducing our Environmental Footprint?

Everyone at Craflwyn is committed to continually reducing our environmental footprint by:

- Reducing energy consumption and promoting efficient energy use by our guests
- Minimising waste by recycling
- Monitoring the consumption of resources and the production of waste and communicating the results with interested parties
- Reducing the use of chemicals to a minimum and preventing pollution
- Reducing water consumption
- Reducing the environmental impact of travelling through efficient use of vehicles and use of public transport and bikes.
- Ensuring materials, goods and services support the environmental policy and that suppliers are encouraged to improve their environmental performance.
- Constantly improving environmental performance by setting targets and recording results.
- Maintaining a high level of awareness of sustainability issues amongst our workforce and raising the awareness of our visitors
- Complying with all relevant UK and European Environmental Legislation and National Trust environmental practices.



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Progress Report for 2007



Jayne, Iona and Sarah receiving our "highly commended" plaque in the Wales Business & Sustainability Awards from Roger Thomas, Chief Executive of the Countryside Council for Wales

During the year, the number of bookings for meetings weddings and other events continued to increase. There were 19 weddings held in the Hall and occupancy for all types of groups was 53%, with an increase in the number of people using the buildings. 17 working holidays were based at Craflwyn during the year and 2,600 American students visited on the "People to People" project. Altogether over 2,968 volunteers gave up their time to work with us, resulting in 18,099 hours of volunteer time on environmental projects in the area. Occupancy of our holiday cottage, Bwthyn Mai has reached 73% an increase of 35%. Although there were a few staffing changes during 2007, the total number of staff based at Craflwyn remains 13. One of the main achievements during 2007 was being 'highly commended' at the Wales Business and Sustainability Awards. Progress on our environmental achievements is described below.

Education

One of the most important achievements during the year was the provision of more information to our guests and staff about Craflwyn's environmental features, and guidelines on how to reduce our energy consumption and waste production. The package of interpretative materials includes:

- 'Guidelines for a Greener Craflwyn' leaflets and reminder stickers on switches, sockets and some appliances
- 'Eco-trail' for guests and visitors to better appreciate the green features of the site
- Educational activity packs for families and educational groups
- More information in the Hall, including a model showing the energy-saving features of the building
- More green information on our website
- Green Day for staff on June 14th.



Opening the "earth oven" at lunchtime at our staff Green Day. The whole meal was prepared with local ingredients – including organic beef from our Hafod y Llan farm – without the use of fossil fuel in its preparation.

Energy Consumption

The outstanding achievement for the year was reducing our LPG consumption by a massive 40% to 19,109 litres. This, combined with substantial reductions in electricity, diesel and heating oil has resulted in an excellent reduction in our CO₂ emissions by a whopping 14.2% to 83,484kg. As well as helping reduce global warming, the financial savings to our business in LPG costs alone are in the region of £1,850. The initiatives which enabled us to achieve this were reducing the heat in the Hall, perfecting the working of the Heat Pump, reducing the number and size of the vehicles and improving the efficiency of the biomass boiler at the Canolfan Deilen Las seminar room and offices.



Shredded waste paper from our offices is added to staw as winter bedding for our cattle at Hafod y Llan farm. Woodchips produced as a waste product on the estate are also recycled as cattle bedding.

Waste

We are now able to recycle about 50% of our waste. The main way we are able to achieve this is through the 'Rocket' composter, which turns all our vegetable waste into excellent compost for our local allotment-holders at the Community Allotments in the walled garden. We have also been able to start recycling our plastic, using the same company as we use to take our big-bale silage wrap at Hafod y Llan farm. Although this is a very expensive setup it has enabled us drastically reduce the volume of our waste going to landfill. Cardboard is also recycled a local waste company, however we have found a novel way of recycling our shredded office paper – we put it under our Welsh Black cows as bedding in the barn at Hafod y Llan.

Water

Our water consumption during 2007 rose by 3% to 808.1m³, despite our having set ourselves the target of a 5% reduction. Although Craflwyn stands in one of the wettest valleys in the UK, our water consumption is a real cost to the environment, as our mains water is pumped from the next valley. 'Hippo' –type water displacement devices have been installed in our toilet cisterns and we already have some low-flow taps on the property. To be certain that we are not losing water to leaks, overnight leak-tests are carried out. This involves reading the water meters at the end of one day and the beginning of the next, when the centre is unoccupied.

Transport

By the end of the year, we had reduced the number of vehicles based at Craflwyn to 5 and a tractor, bringing the total fuel consumption down to 6,901 litres, 10% down on the previous year. We persuaded one of the bus companies to recognise Craflwyn as a stopping point and two members of staff occasionally used the bus for home to work journeys. Another exciting development during 2007 was the securing of a grant from the Gwynedd Community Chest to help us purchase 3 bikes for volunteers and staff to use whilst going about their work in the area. We also negotiated a deal with local hire-company Beddgelert Bikes, whereby they offer a 10% discount on bike hire, if booked in advance.



Staff heading off on their bikes for an ice cream at the end of our annual Green Day. We now have 3 National Trust -owned bikes at the Centre for use by staff and volunteers. All users are provided with helmet, reflective jackets and lights.

Procurement



We have worked hard with our catering suppliers during 2007 to get them to source as much as possible of their produce locally. Whenever possible, this includes beef, lamb or mutton from the slopes of Snowdon, reared on our own organic farm at Hafod y Llan. We only use Fair Trade tea and coffee at Craflwyn.



Our Field Ecologist and Monitoring Officer, Sabine Nouvet is also one of the allotment-holders at Craflwyn's community allotments.

The allotments, which enable five local families to grow healthy organic produce, won a National Trust "Director General's Award for Engagement through Conservation" during 2008.

Our Objectives and Targets:

During 2008 we will be striving to reduce our:

- CO₂ emissions by a further 10% to 75,135kg
- Electricity use by 5% to 74,970kWh
- Fossil Fuel consumption by 10% equating to a 4950kg reduction in CO₂ emissions
- Water consumption by 5% to 767m³

Other Objectives being planned are:

- Installation of a small hydro electricity turbine to provide lighting for the yurt campsite.
- Investigating biomass pellet boilers as a way of reducing oil and electricity consumption

Signed:



Property Manager

March 2008