

Green Tourism Policy Statement for Steading 5 Balvatin Cottages



To demonstrate our belief in sustainability and protecting the local environment, Steading 5 has been assessed under the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS). The GTBS is a national sustainable tourism certification scheme.

We achieved a Bronze Award when assessed against a rigorous set of environmental impact and sustainable criteria and are actively working to improve this.

We care about our environment and long-term sustainability and are committed to reduce the impact Steading 5, has on the local area and environment.

We are committed to a continuous improvement in environmental management to benefit us all and future generations.

How can you help whilst you are staying at Steading 5?

- By recycling paper, plastic bottles, cans and cardboard using the blue bins located in the bin enclosure near the main road. Glass and bottles can be recycled in the village bottle bank located in Newtonmore industrial estate.
- Refilling your reusable water bottle before setting off to explore the area
- Switch off lights and TVs when not in use
- Please close doors and windows when you want to use the heating
- Please adjust the heating in individual rooms to suit your requirements
- Please avoid excessive use of water,
- Please use the Highland council recycling facilities; a blue bin is provided to depose of recyclable materials. Details what is recyclable is available in Steading 5.
- Shop locally in Newtonmore or Kingussie to support our wonderful local food and drink producers
- There is a local bus service which links into the railway station at Newtonmore and use of this can contribute and give you a break from driving
- Leave nothing but footprints in the local environment and take lots of photographs!

What we do

- Use recycled paper is used where possible.
- Email for communicating with our guests and suppliers where possible to reduce paper consumption and postage costs.
- Steading 5 is solely dependent on electricity provided by Scottish Hydro Electric for heating and lighting a supplier chosen as Scottish Hydro are committed to environmentally friendly and sustainable policies.
- Provide storage heaters which are fitted with a timer and a thermostatic control. A thermal insulation in the roof complies with the latest building regulations for energy efficiency; Steading 5 is double-glazed, and has a water conserving shower and toilet cisterns.

- Aim to have electrical appliances which are A - Rated to minimize energy consumption. The majority of light bulbs used are energy efficient LED bulbs. External lighting has LED energy efficient bulbs.
- Our energy consumption is monitored to identify opportunities to reduce consumption. Energy tariffs are reviewed on a regular basis.
- Our guest information file in Steading 5 and our website has local information on what to do, where to go and where to eat close to Steading 5 Balvatin Cottages. While we cannot completely eliminate the need to travel by car for most of our guests there are lots of ideas for car free days.
- Steading 5 is on a local bus route and the main line train route enabling you to holiday without your car. Details of buses and train links are available. The mainline train station is ½ miles walk.
- Speyside and Badenoch is best is by explored using the the walking routes and cycling paths which we have in abundance. See our guides provided to plan your outings.
- Newtonmore.com, the village website, is full of ideas of what to do in the village e.g. visit one of two award winning museums within walking distance. Cycle hire is available in the village to enable you to explore this amazing area without using your car.
- We provide information and guide books on local wildlife, star gazing in the clear sky around in Newtonmore and places in the area where wildlife can be seen including our garden!
- A bird table and food container for local birds allows our guests to see the local wildlife at close quarter.

We would welcome any ideas that you have, that could help Steading 5 to be more 'environmentally friendly'