

Green Tourism Policy Statement for Steading 5 Balvatin Cottages



To demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and protecting the environment we have been assessed under the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS). The GTBS is a national sustainable tourism certification scheme. We are delighted and extremely proud that we achieved a Bronze Award when assessed against a rigorous set of environmental impact and sustainable criteria. We are the first self-catering holiday cottages to gain a Gold Award in Cheshire. The Gold Award indicates that we are working in the right direction!

We are a small business, who cares about our environment and long-term sustainability. We are committed to make Steading 5 Balvatin Cottages as environmentally friendly as possible.

We endeavour to use environmentally friendly cleaning products as much as possible.

We ask our guests to help us 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. Other recycling opportunities are explored as they arise.

Recycled paper is used wherever possible. Email is used to communicate where possible to reduce paper consumption and freight costs.

Steading 5 is solely dependent on electricity provided by Scottish Hydro Electric for heating and lighting. Scottish Hydro are committed to environmentally friendly and sustainable policies. The storage heater is fitted with a timer and a thermostatic control, thermal insulation which complies with the latest building regulations for energy efficiency, double-glazing, and water conserving cisterns.

Most of the appliances are A - Rated to minimize energy consumption. The majority of light bulbs used are energy efficient. Outdoor lighting has LED energy efficient bulbs.

Our energy and water consumption are monitored to identify opportunities to reduce consumption. Energy tariffs are reviewed on a regular basis.

Our guest information files in the cottages and on our website have 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 “more or less” car free days.

The cottage is on a local bus route and main line train routes, details of buses and train links are provided. The mainline train station is ½ miles walk. A great way to see Speyside and Badenoch at its best is by exploring the walking routes and cycling paths which we have in abundance! Enjoy a leisurely walk around the Wildcat Trail to take in Glen Banchor, the River Spey and the views to the Cairngorm Mountains.

Newtonmore.com our village website is full of ideas of where to walk from the village or to visit one of two award winning museums; again within walking distance. Cycle hire is available in the village to enable you to explore this amazing area without using your car.

We are committed to a continuous improvement in environmental management to benefit us all and future generations. We would ask you to support us with this by contributing to this whilst staying at Steading 5.

Suggested areas where contributions can be made are as follows:

- Switch off lights and TVs when not in use
- Please close doors and windows when you have the need to use the heating
- Please adjust the heating in individual rooms to suit your requirements
- Please avoid excessive use of water,
- The local council provide recycling facilities; we would ask you to use these, a blue bin is provided to dispose of recyclable materials
- Shop locally in Newtonmore or Kingussie to support our 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

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