

# Ceann an Loch Cottage

Fois 's sith aig Ceann an Loch... Tranquillity and luxury by the Lochside



## Ceann an Loch Cottage Green Policy

At Ceann an Loch cottage, we aim to create a 5 star self-catering holiday experience whilst also being committed to minimising the environmental impact of our business activities.

Our business was developed with the help of the Scotland Rural Development Programme, and by encouraging sustainable practices, we hope to guarantee continued enjoyment of our natural local environment for future generations.

***We have therefore implemented the following strategies and measures to reduce our impact:***

-  Ceann an Loch stands on the shores of Loch Erisort where marine life, such as otters and seals can be observed daily. The immediate hillside offers the perfect habitat for a variety of wildlife, ranging from birds, rabbits, eagles, as well as the Scottish Highland's iconic wild deer, which can be observed grazing by the cottage, early, on a winter's morning. During the summer months, salmon can also be spotted swimming and leaping up the river, which runs beside the cottage. We also have a Perspex bird box attached to the window, allowing guests to observe wild birds as they feed. Guests are also encouraged to document any wildlife sightings in our nature diary.
-  The cottage is centrally located and allows access to many activities, and we provide information for those interested in; local history, culture, sporting activities and exploring the island's rich flora and fauna.
-  The cottage was built by local contractors, has a natural slate roof and is partially clad in a Siberian Larch sourced from well-managed forests. The outdoor decking area, which is excellent for observing the surrounding wildlife, sun rise or simply to relax in the clean Hebridean air, is also constructed using this naturally durable timber, as is the shed, which is suitable for storing angling rods and bicycles.
-  The cottage has double glazing and a high level of insulation, as well as insulated exterior doors. We also have locally sourced Harris Tweed curtains which add to heat conservation.
-  The cottage is heated using a high efficiency boiler which undergoes regular maintenance, and is managed in each room using thermostatic clocks, thus minimising unnecessary waste of energy.

 Our SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure), which calculates insulation levels, heating systems and CO2 emissions showed Ceann an Loch cottage to be rated as an energy efficient building.

 A reed-bed is in place which is a sustainable, low energy, low maintenance solution for sewage and wastewater treatment.

 All the bathrooms have a water saving cistern that promote water conservation.

 Low energy light bulbs are fitted throughout.

 Battery Charger—a battery tester/ charger is located in the utility room.

 Cleaning and laundry is carried out using eco-friendly cleaning products.

 We aim for the installation of ‘A’ rated electrical appliances where possible.

 All stationary and documentation is printed on recycled paper and printer ink cartridges are sent for recycling.

 We support our local economy by providing natural soap, handmade on the island, and locally sourced produce in our welcome pack. We also display items for sale, such as work by local artist Vega, and locally produced Harris Tweed crafts.

 For window cleaning and recycling purposes we use services offered by the Hebrides Alpha Project. The project provides therapeutic employment to individuals who are serious about combating a drug or alcohol addiction.

 We include Fair Trade goods in our welcome pack.

 Light pollution is kept to a minimum as our outside lighting is on a PIR timer.

 An ecologically friendly wood burning stove is fitted in the living area.

 We have purchased high quality, hardwearing Italian slate floor tiles, natural Indian mango and oak flooring and furniture, as well as leather suites and chairs in order to reduce the need for frequent replacement.

 **Green Goals for the future reduction of our carbon footprint.**

 In the future we aim to plant and manage 10 acres of trees, and to plant wild flowers in order to encourage an increase in local biodiversity.



*At Ceann an Loch Cottage, we encourage our guests to consider their environmental impact by.....*



refraining from smoking in the cottage.



using the eco-friendly cleaning materials which are supplied.



joining us in recycling paper, ink cartridges, plastic, aluminium and glass, and to also separate food waste (bins are provided).



minimising waste consumption by.....

- turning taps off when brushing teeth or shaving,
- have showers instead of baths.
- reuse towels during their stay.
- ensuring the dishwasher and washing machine are full before putting them on, and always use the most water and energy efficiency settings.
- switching appliances off when not in use. This may seem obvious, but it's easy to leave a TV on when one leaves the room and forget about it!
- trying not to leave cameras, laptops, i-pods, phones or other items charging overnight. A few hours are usually all that's required.
- switching lights off when not in a room.
- closing the curtains when it is dark outside to retain heat.



helping to strengthen the local economy by supporting local businesses. Locally owned, independent businesses are an integral part of sustaining the economy in the Hebrides.



making use of the information on local activities, cultural events, literature and maps available in the cottage.



refilling the bird feeder located on the kitchen window. Birdfeed is located in the utility room.



documenting any wildlife spotted during your stay on the island in our nature diary.