

# Environmental action plan

## Victorian House Hotel

Created: September 2021

Last Reviewed: N/A

Next Review: December 2021

Renewal date: September 2022



Activity / Environmental impact	Action	Advice	Priority	Responsibility	Timescales/ targets	Progress
Running the hotel building						
Energy use for lighting & power	Continue replacing failing lamps/bulbs/tubes with LED	LED replacements are available for the vast majority of light fittings, including flourescent tubes (see <a href="#">these</a> for example) but check with a qualified electrician if you are unsure	Medium		Ongoing	Done 01/01/22
	Consider switching to a 'deep green' energy tariff	To understand some of the issues involved here, see the <a href="#">Ethical Consumer Guide to Gas and Electricity Tariffs</a> , which recommends Good Energy & Ecotricity as 'best buys'.	High		May 2022	Record whether you have switched
	Install a smart meter	You can register interest via your supplier <a href="#">here</a> .	Medium		September 2021	Smart meter fitted spring 22
	Explore potential for solar PV	This is something you could ask AI to consider when he carries out the survey and it may be more feasible given that you are planning to carry out works in the loft/roof anyway. In terms of planning constraints,	High		October 2021	Grant funding awarded Jan 2022. Solar installation due spring 2022.

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		you will need to contact the planning authority to be certain but <a href="#">the guidance</a> would suggest that you should not need permission providing that they are not placed on a wall facing a highway.				
Energy use for heating	Identify the best ways of improving the energy efficiency of the building	<p>You are already in touch with AI about this, which is great.</p> <p>You need to think about the potential for loft, wall and floor insulation, improved glazing, improved heating &amp; lighting controls (you mentioned TRVs may be needed on some radiators for example) &amp; renewable/low carbon energy generation (see separate actions for solar thermal and solar PV but you could also think about heat pumps).</p> <p>Remember the possibility of the <a href="#">LDF grants</a>, which could potentially be used to implement some of the actions you identify.</p>	Medium		Get some specialist advice ASAP	Grant funding to work with My Green Butler 2022 to control room temperatures. AI recommended installing air source heat pumps when our existing boilers are nearing end of life.
	Explore the potential for solar thermal (for water heating)	As with solar PV, this is something that it would be good to ask AI to consider as part of his survey	High		October 2021	Installation due Spring 2022
Water & energy used in taps, showers & toilets	Ensure taps are fitted with aerators wherever possible	Aerators can reduce flow by as much as 50% without significantly impacting the 'feel' of the flow. This could make a significant difference to energy and water bills. For an idea of the range of tap aerators possible, see <a href="#">this site</a> . Perhaps you could trial one or two first?	Medium		September 2022	Record whether you have fitted any aerators

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	Check that showers are fitted with low-flow heads	<a href="#">Eco-camel</a> may be a good option for any that are not low-flow.	Medium		September 2022	Record whether you have fitted any low-flow heads
Energy & raw materials associated with toilet tissue	Consider switching to toilet tissue made from 100% recycled paper	Check out <a href="#">Who Gives a Crap</a> . They produce 100% recycled paper, support charitable causes and the branding provides great opportunities to showcase your efforts to your customers	Medium		December 2021	Switch to 2work Caterite recycled toilet paper spring 2022
Running your office functions						
Energy & raw materials associated with paper production	Explore ways of reducing paper use	<p>We often encourage clients to consult with staff about this to identify opportunities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stopping printing particular items, e.g. financial records are now 100% digital in some companies; what can you email instead of printing?</li> <li>• Adjusting templates to make most efficient use of paper</li> <li>• Ensuring double-sided printing</li> <li>• Keeping a store of scrap paper for note taking etc</li> </ul>	Medium		Consult staff prior to renewal in September 2022	Done – paperless from 2019
	Aim for 100% Post Consumer Waste Content (PCW) paper.	<p>Recycled paper can be a bit of a minefield. You should aim for 100% Post-Consumer Waste (PCW) recycled paper.</p> <p><a href="#">Steinbeis No. 2</a> is a good, affordable example of 100% post-consumer waste recycled.</p> <p>Almost all <a href="#">Eco-Craft</a> paper and paper products are 100% PCW too.</p>	Medium		Trial by December 2021	Paperless business

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		I would advise trialling any paper change before purchasing a large quantity as the look and feel of 100% PCW paper is a little different to the paper you may be used to.				
Printer consumables waste	Recycle all used printer consumables	This is free and can even generate income or a donation to charity. We generally refer clients to <a href="#">The Recycling Factory</a>	Low		With immediate effect	Record whether you have started doing this
	Switch to printer with refillable ink tanks	There are a growing number of printers on the market which have refillable ink tanks rather than cartridges. Could you consider switching to such a printer when your current printer is in need of renewal?	Low		TBC	Record whether you have switched
Cleaning and waste						
General waste	Continue to recycle all card, plastic, glass, tins		Medium		Ongoing	Ongoing
	Introduce regular monitoring of waste levels	<p>This will be important for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding how you can best reduce your waste</li> <li>• Monitoring the impact of any actions you take</li> <li>• Keeping your waste collection costs as low as possible</li> </ul> <p>We discussed the idea of you having a clipboard on which you record the % fill levels of each of your waste containers prior to collection. You will obviously need to identify a member of staff with responsibility for this.</p>	Medium		With immediate effect	Record whether you have introduced a system for this

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	Continue to develop separation inserts for guest bins	This sound fantastic. I look forward to hearing how it progresses!	High		Ongoing	Record the outcome of this project
	Engage with suppliers regarding the avoidance of single use plastics	Your work with other hotels on this sounds great. I will email you separately regarding links with other Green Small Business certified hospitality businesses in the area.	High		Ongoing	WhatsApp group set up through Cumbria Tourism
Water pollution from cleaning products	Explore the feasibility of using fully biodegradable cleaning materials.	See <a href="#">Ethical Superstore</a> for examples of alternatives. Price and effectiveness are important so it may not be possible to find alternatives for all products used	Medium		June 2022	Record whether you have made any changes to the products used
Energy, water use & waste associated with laundry	Engage with supplier regarding plastics and carbon emissions		Medium		December 2021	Record the outcome of your discussions with your supplier
Plastic pollution from toiletry products	Continue using refillable dispensers for all toiletries provided		Medium		Ongoing	Ongoing
Water pollution from toiletry products	Continue offering fully biodegradable products	You mentioned that you are using Land & Water, who sound great. If you were ever looking to change, <a href="#">Bespoke Aroma</a> could be an alternative. They are based in Windermere and are Green Small Business certified	Low		Ongoing	Ongoing
Providing food and drink						
Environmental impacts of	Develop a policy for food sourcing	It's great that you are already thinking about these issues. I wonder if you could take it to the next level by forming some sort of simple policy, which you could think about	High		September 2022	Record whether you have adopted a policy for food sourcing

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food supply chain	Develop a menu traffic light system	expanding over time. You'd obviously need to do this in conjunction with your kitchen staff.  In future you could consider incorporating principles such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing plant-based ingredients and reducing meat and dairy items</li> <li>Avoiding air-freighted ingredients and focusing on seasonality and local sourcing</li> <li>Sourcing fish using the Marine Stewardship Council sustainability guidelines</li> </ul>				
Staff commuting						
Emissions from vehicles	Provide on-site staff accommodation		High		Ongoing	Record your progress with this
Guest travel						
Emissions from vehicles	Advise guests of public transport options and cycle storage facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at the time of booking</li> <li>on your website</li> </ul>	You could promote rail travel to your guests through providing information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxenholme and Windermere stations</li> <li>Contact details for local taxi services, including the all-electric <a href="#">Zero Cars</a> – this is a high-end service using a Tesla Model 3 with water and Prosecco available for travellers. Pre-booking essential.</li> <li>car hire options at Oxenholme &amp; Windermere stations through <a href="#">Co-Wheels</a></li> </ul>	Medium		October 2021	CO2 free package on website advising on how to reach us and lots of things to do here, without bringing the car. G
	Continue working with other businesses on promoting car-free travel for guests		High		Ongoing	Ongoing
	Install EV charging point(s)	This will be essential for your business as the transition to EV's continues. If you were	Medium		March 2022	Installation planned booked for spring 2022

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		looking for alternatives to Charge My Street, you could consider one of the LDF grants for this purpose. They are likely to have received applications for EV charging points already so it may be worth a quick call with them to assess your likelihood of success.				
Business travel						
Emissions from vehicles	Seek to maximise use of public transport for all trips		Medium		Ongoing	Package to incentivise guests to travel without cars
Company administration						
Emissions associated with web hosting	Switch to a sustainable hosting provider	A quick check of your site via <a href="#">The Green Web Foundation</a> indicates that you do not currently use a green host. You can select your web host based on their environmental credentials – again, this link provides some really useful pointers <a href="https://www.wholegraindigital.com/blog/choose-a-green-web-host/">https://www.wholegraindigital.com/blog/choose-a-green-web-host/</a> . The post includes references to some specific hosting options. Another that I recommend is <a href="https://hypergalaxy.co.uk/green-hosting/">https://hypergalaxy.co.uk/green-hosting/</a>	Medium		September 2022	Record any change made
Environmental effects of banking	Consider switching banks or seeking to influence your current bank	Bear in mind that the indirect environmental impacts (how they invest your money) are significant and gaining increasing attention. If you were up for thinking about switching, see the <a href="#">Ethical Consumer guide to ethical business bank accounts</a> , which highlights Triodos and Unity Trust as two strong options. Otherwise, writing to Starling	Medium		March 2022	Record the outcome of your consideration of this issue

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		asking them for clearer commitments would be an alternative. See <a href="#">here</a> for their current policies which are great as far as they go but it is unclear whether they will avoid lending to environmentally damaging projects, e.g. fossil fuel extraction				
Environmental impacts of insurance companies	Explore the feasibility of switching to 'ethical' insurance providers	Check out <a href="#">Naturesave</a> for quotes and further details	Medium		At renewal	Record the outcome of your consideration of this issue
Environmental impacts of workplace pension fund investments	Offer an ethical option to staff	See here the <a href="#">details of the Nest Ethical Fund</a> , which you could alert your staff to.	Medium		December 2021	Record how you have done this
Potential for positive influence on environment	Include your environmental policy on your website		Medium		With immediate effect	Record whether you have done this
	Include the 'Green Small Business Certified' logo on your website, and in your email footer		High		With immediate effect	Done
	Display your 'Green Small Business Certified' window sticker on your premises		High		With immediate effect	Record whether you have done this



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	Publish details of your carbon footprint and your plans for net zero	Having done some of the work on your footprint already, it will be important to publish this and to think about what you do with it. See the latter part of <a href="#">this guide</a> for advice/suggestions. I would suggest committing to net zero in future (2030 maybe?) and investing in reducing your own emissions rather than any offsetting up to that date.	High		December 2021	Record whether you have published your footprint and any decisions about a net zero commitment