



TOURISM DECLARES PLEDGE

We have signed up to [Tourism Declares](#), an initiative that supports tourism businesses, organisations and individuals in declaring a climate emergency and in taking purposeful action to reduce carbon emissions.

At Elterwater Hostel we take our commitment to the environment very seriously and are always looking for ways to improve. We have been proud holders of a Green Tourism Gold Award since 2017 reflecting our early commitment to lessen our impact and improve the natural environment of the Lake District National Park. We are now going further and declaring a formal pledge to improvement over the next twelve months in the following specific areas: -

Transport

Encourage the use of sustainable transport for guests by introducing a discount for those arriving on foot, bike or by public transport

Maintain and encourage use of our EV charging point

Heating and Heat Efficiency

We will continue the roll out of thermal curtains (with the help of a grant from Lake District Foundation) in all our rooms to improve energy efficiency in our hostel

We will continue to use Good Energy or other eco-friendly energy provider

We will install zero carbon energy solutions, such as solar and air/ground source heat pumps in the new staff accommodation and investigate how this can be utilised by the hostel

Food

Wherever possible we will buy in bulk and minimise packaging by avoiding single serve products. We will continue to cook with locally grown seasonal and organic produce

We will replace our sandwich containers with paper-based products when possible

Water Use

We will continue to use aerators on bathroom sinks and dual flush toilet systems to minimise water usage

We will check the water use and environmental credentials of our laundry suppliers

Waste

We continue to reduce waste by only producing food to order

We will make recycling options easier to spot and encourage guests to separate their waste both in the kitchen and the bedroom

We will always examine the most sustainable options including re-use when disposing of large items

Lighting/Small Electrical items

We will continue the program of replacing all lights with LED bulbs

We will investigate the options for reducing the intensity of security lighting with light level sensors

We will investigate replacing existing fans in the drying room and self-catering kitchen with humidity sensing alternatives or installing timers to cut existing usage

Activities for Guests

We will highlight more walks/cycle routes from the door on our new website and encourage guests to choose local options rather than using their cars

We will consider the carbon footprint and the eco credentials of local attractions when recommending these to guests

Suppliers

We will continue our switch to sustainable loo roll and paper towels using products such as Cheeky Panda and Naked Sprout

Where possible we will buy in bulk and refill existing containers to save packaging and sending small bottles to landfill

We will continue to source locally and consider food miles in our purchasing decisions

For larger purchases we will consider the lifetime environmental impacts including production, durability, and eventual disposal