

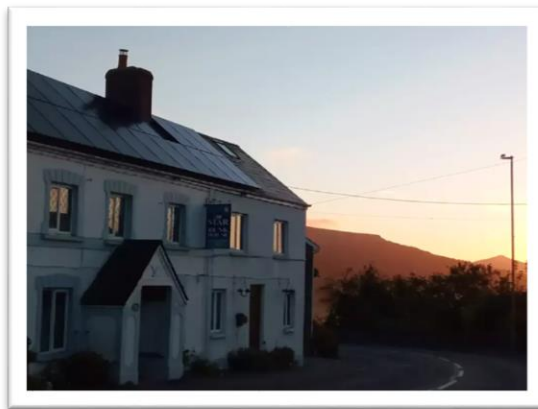
## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Since taking over The Star Bunkhouse in 2014, we have strived to improve its environmental performance. We are also acutely aware of the impact of tourism on the sensitive environment of Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park, so we aim to limit this impact through leading by example and by "giving back" as much as we can. In 2022, we signed a 'Green Growth Pledge' with *Business Wales*, and thus our 'Environmental Policy' was created to formalise work already done and future intentions, and will be reviewed annually. Our commitments are categorised as follows and our progress will be shared with our followers on social media:-

### ★ Using energy & water wisely

- We source 100% certified renewable electricity from *Good Energy* and we are not on mains gas
- We have added solar PV panels to help generate electricity and hot water during daylight hours, and will investigate adding overnight storage batteries by Summer 2025
- We encourage our guests to switch lights off, and have added motion sensors in key areas
- We have replaced most light fittings and bulbs with LED, and plan to complete this transition by the end of 2024
- We will investigate the installation of self-flushing urinals and rainwater harvesting for the flushing of WCs by Summer 2025
- We have installed triple glazing in all south-facing bedrooms adjacent to the road, and replaced all fire exits, and are looking at other areas of the building where we might improve insulation by Summer 2026



### ★ Efficient transport

- We encourage our guests to car share or use public transport in our booking details
- At home, we use a fully electric car or a hybrid car for volunteering or business-related travel where possible, with most journeys being within the National Park
- We intend, subject to finance, to install at least one electric car charging point for guest use by the end of 2025

### ★ Preventing waste & pollution

- We are committed to repairing, upcycling and recycling
  - We provide facilities for guests to recycle food waste, paper, plastic, glass, terapacks and aluminium

- We responsibly dispose of end-of-life trade waste such as metal, hard plastics, batteries, electrical items, lightbulbs, bedding, mattresses and garden waste
- We donate unopened, in date food items left behind by guests to Brecon Foodbank, or leave for next guests to use
- We cut out our use of single-use plastic by refilling all bottles
- We are signed up as a water refilling station with 'Refill', a campaign to help people use less plastic
- Emma was invited to appear on BBC1's 'Money for Nothing' upcycling programme after purchasing a bespoke piece of furniture made by their design team from brass fire furniture rescued from landfill – still proudly on display in our 'Cwtch': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0010s0k>



★ **Working with responsible suppliers**

- We source eco-friendly cleaning products to refill bottles, and plastic-free toilet paper, kitchen and centrefeed roll

★ **Impact on our local community & the National Park**

- We are the current custodians of a period property (c1760), and are sensitively preserving it for future generations. Repairs are made using traditional materials where possible
- We are proud that our bunkhouse, as a former coaching inn/public house, has been providing hospitality to visitors for centuries, and that its ongoing presence does not impact on local housing stock
- We have planted and maintain hedging, flowers and shrubs around our property to visually enhance our corner of the village and to encourage wildlife
- We are both involved in litter picking and tending to overgrown rights of way in our village
- We are both qualified Mountain Leaders so, whenever we provide guided walks, we share our professional training, enthusiasm and knowledge of upland environments, the countryside code and caring for the National Park with our clients
- Emma is an Uplands Volunteer for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority. She is involved in projects such as footpath maintenance, dry stone walling, peatland restoration, wildlife monitoring, conservation work and invasive species management in the central Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains. Emma was recently seen on ITV's 'Coast & Country' nature programme helping with a peat restoration project on Pen Trumau in the Black Mountains:

<https://www.itv.com/walesprogrammes/articles/coast-and-country-series-10-episode-1>



- Emma volunteers for Stump up for Trees, whose aim is to plant a million trees in the National Park: <https://stumpupfortrees.org/>. Work includes tending to the tree nursery as well as planting. We invite guests to make a small donation (min. £1) when they make an online booking.
- A longer-term project (by Summer 2027) is to seek planning permission to convert our garages into a classroom space to include our collection of educational materials about conservation and the uplands. This additional space would be available for hire by training providers & mountain guides who share our mindset

Signed

*Emma & Peter Harrison*

Emma & Peter Harrison t/a The Star Bunkhouse

Date

21<sup>st</sup> February 2024