



Going Green Update

Going Green and being green remain a key part of the way we run Down Hall and our progress to chip away at reducing our carbon footprint is continuing.

The vegetable garden remains our pride and joy, producing a fantastic amount of home grown, fresh produce on a daily basis. A lot of work has gone on this past winter to put in another outside bed. Covering over an acre of ground, again we cleared away old pine trees and prepared a new bed. This area has already been sown with potatoes, carrots, parsnips and many other root vegetables. Our biggest challenge remains keeping the pigeons at bay!

Almost all bulbs and some light fittings have now been changed, and our year on year electricity usage continues to drop. Last August we installed something called a Power Perfector. This large transformer reduces the voltage we pull from the mains grid and we are tracking approx 11% reduction in electricity usage from this installation alone. The kit cost £27,000 but we got an interest free loan from the Carbon Trust as it showed considerable CO2 savings, so our pay back or ROI is less than 2 years.

Last year we sent approximately 15 tonnes less to landfill waste, so a good effort but we are aiming to achieve more in this area. This year sees our first batch of home made compost being ready to use on the vegetable garden as well.

The majority of the hotels paper products have been switched to recycled or FSC products, and we are now looking at switching all stationary items to greener options. Many of our suppliers are working with us to reduce packaging, and we are pleased with the progress so far, so a big thank you to everyone who is helping us go green!

We will shortly be introducing a full green conference and event package and also be offering all of our clients the option of paying to off set their event with us. This will enable us to build a fund to purchase 'off set credits' to take the hotel carbon neutral in the future.

Keep checking for more updates and contact us if you have any questions by telephone on 01279 731 441 or by e-mail info@downhall.co.uk.