

GO LOCAL ICELAND

Helping questions for local tourism providers to:

- minimize environmental impact
- improve the benefit of their operations to local communities

1, What is it that you do in order to support locally appropriate projects and initiatives for protection of local environments, and the rehabilitation and restoration of local biodiversity?

Some ideas of what you might already be doing:

- avoid environmentally stressed areas,
- support local conservation and environmental efforts,
- stick to trails,
- keep all rubbish with you until it can be properly disposed of,
- encourage collection of any extra litter seen around,
- no taking of 'souvenirs',
- no approaching/touching wildlife or fragile organisms,
- never wash anything with cleaning agents directly in river or lake water,
- use biodegradable, phosphorous free cleaning agents on all trips,
- talk with guests about appropriate behaviour in the natural environment.

2, What do you do in order to save energy?

Some ideas of what you might already be doing:

- purchase energy from renewable or low carbon sources if available. If not available, generate a considerable amount on site through appropriate renewable energy technologies,
- use energy efficient lighting,
- use energy efficient rated appliances (from fridges to computers to fans), and have a replacement scheme for old appliances,
- have boiler and hot pipes insulated,
- provide guidelines to guests on how to reduce their impact and reduce energy consumption.
- have a towel re-use policy, not daily change.
- have a policy for regularly monitoring energy usage, and setting targets.

3, What do you do to minimize water wastage and contamination?

Some ideas of what you might already be doing:

- have dual flush toilets,
- have a towel/sheet re-use policy,
- not leaving taps running unnecessarily,
- not flushing unless necessary,
- report and resolve quickly any leaks and drips.

4, What do you do to reduce waste?

Some ideas of what you might already be doing:

- recycle all waste glass, plastic, paper and card, cartons,
- provide guests with recycling facilities,
- donate old IT equipment, refill printer cartridges,
- seek less heavily packaged products, seek only recycled/recyclable or biodegradable packages, and avoid plastic packaging where possible,
- buy products in large containers, refill smaller containers/dispensers from these,
- provide reusable bottles for tap water,
- compost organic/biodegradable waste,
- save paper by double sided printing, reuse of free sides of paper as draft or scrap pads,
- use plastic containers rather than alu foil.

5, How do you purchase goods and use resources?

Some ideas of what you might already be doing:

- use local suppliers and artisans wherever possible,
- prioritise suppliers with a shared focus on sustainable practice,
- avoid buying products made from endangered animals or plants,
- buy paper that has high post-consumer recycled content (not chlorine bleached),
- avoid single-use and disposable products, e.g. buy rechargeable batteries,
- buy in bulk,
- fair trade products are bought when possible
- minimise the use of cleaning products, such as bleaches, chlorine and detergents that will end up in the wastewater,
- sourcing of local foods and menus affected by seasonality,
- use natural cleaning products over chemical alternatives,
- preference to conversion and renovation of existing buildings, rather than new build where possible.



On top of the above, we, at Go Local Iceland, are interested in raising discussion with local municipalities and tourism related institutions in Iceland on the following questions:

- ***How can we help community members be more actively involved in tourism?***
(We believe that this will help them in taking more responsibility for destination stewardship, and develop pride and skill in showing off their locale. Result: both visitor and host get more out of the visit.)
- ***How can we create a structure that would be in place for joint (company and community) decision making and planning?***
- ***If the above is not possible, what are the formal structures for local consultation and agreement before developments start*** – making sure that traditional rights are respected and preserved, and a fair price is paid for land/fair compensation for any loss of land?
- ***How can we create a community agreement on destination capacity, which is respected at all times?***
- ***What can municipality do, to help operators respect and value local cultures and customs, and pro-actively support or encourage local community attempts to protect and preserve cultural practices, sites and events and traditional methods?***
(We believe that this should include adopting local traditional art, design and architecture into developments.)

