



Dive and Sea the Hebrides,
Shorepark, Lochbay, Waternish, Isle of Skye, IV55 8GD,
Phone: 01470 592219

ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY and NET-ZERO CARBON POLICY

As a coastal business directly affected by climate change, we see it as our responsibility to lead by example and to take immediate and effective action to mitigate against climate change. While constrained by the limitations of a historical building in a conservation area fishing village, we commit to making energy efficiencies and reductions in emission and pollution, through standard measures where possible, while also exploring innovative and emerging solutions offered through Blue Carbon capture to offset shortfalls not achievable through more normal routes.

ENERGY USAGE

We are currently reviewing our energy use and are committed to;

1. Reducing dependency on fossil fuels.
2. Reducing unnecessary use of ANY energy or resource.
3. Conducting a review of resources used to inform a strategy to achieve efficiencies and a move towards NetZero.

Customer Transport to Skye

Public transport on the island is limited, making own vehicles a necessity, to reach more remote departure points for day dive locations. Large amounts of personalised bulky equipment also make a car vital. Equipment hire has proven non-viable in the past as there are a wide range of personal preferences in the choice of dive kit and the diversity of options for equipment set up in modern diving.

Encourage car sharing

As many expeditions come as a group it can be possible to minimise vehicle emission pollution by car sharing and often clubs arrange a minibus, thereby reducing vehicle emission. It may be possible to make further reductions via the use of hybrid / electric vehicles, and we have committed to surveying our customers about the demand for providing charge points at the premises.

Encourage longer stays

Customers can travel 100's of miles to expedition with us, and it make sense to encourage longer stays to reduce the Carbon footprint to and from our expeditions. Clearly 1 expedition of 12 people onboard for a week is better than changing out expeditions 3 times in a week. Not only does the customer make better use of fuel in their vehicles, investing time on a longer stay, means they are more refreshed and prepared for a successful and enjoyable dive experience.

Property – expedition accommodation

Our property is an old stone building and is situated in a Conservation Area, which seriously limits options for energy saving 'structural' improvements and type of fuel used, however we are committed to maximising the reductions in energy used at the property as follows;

1. Encourage small changes. They all add up. Fit door closures to external doors to ensure doors close automatically, and ensure seals are maintained to minimise drafts.
2. Do not leave windows open while heating is on and maintain draft free seals on window closures.
3. Improve thermal insulation at the property, by upgrading to current standards, in floor, wall and roof insulation whenever maintenance or refurbishment is undertaken.
4. Commit that all work will being carried out to achieve the highest standard of thermal efficiency possible.
5. Heating is more complex as there are restricted options available to us at the present time on the island and particularly in the conservation area. At this time input reduction is more viable than changing fuel type.

6. We will also commit to innovative blue carbon initiatives to offset carbon emissions where reductions can genuinely not be made.

Dive Charter Vessel

Emissions Reduction

Our primary reduction is through replacement of 30+ year old engines to newer models with more sophisticated engineering, cleaner fuel, more efficiency and less emissions. New engines have been purchased with the welcome assistance of Crown Estate Scotland 'Sustainable Communities Fund – Environment Grant, with installation underway ready for commission and use in 2023. We thank Cron Estate Scotland for their support and we look forward to making significant fuel efficiencies and much reduced Carbon emissions.

Fuel Efficiencies

It often seems that marine tourism can be the very antipathy of sustainable, with long fast journeys in carbon guzzling vessels, undertaken to simply tick 'the list'. Those journeys are often unnecessary and undertaken in lack of knowledge of options. Often the same qualities can be found on a closer underwater site. Responsible stewardship of the marine environment is intertwined with our expectation to use it.

Use less fuel, emit less pollution.

Have conversations to encourage guests;

1. Not to overlook what's on our doorstep, encourage exploration closer to home.
2. Reconsider the daily dive destination list and consider closer sites to meet the dive objectives.
3. Planning multiple dives, a day, go prepared and stay for the day.
4. Where possible, avoid repeat miles plan to work progressively, leaving from different departure points each morning.