

Case Study

Bingham Hotel

Offering green weddings and accommodation, the prestigious Bingham Hotel, has made significant steps in reducing their environmental impact with assistance from our Greening Business Programme.

The Bingham Hotel, a Georgian townhouse located on the riverside by Richmond Bridge known for its weddings, romantic getaways and gastronomic delights, got in touch to see how they could reduce their energy, waste and water costs, whilst also helping the environment.

A Greening Business Adviser visited the hotel to assess everything from the light bulbs and the toilets to the bins and the gardens.

She found that the hotel had some good energy saving principles in place already, for example store rooms and toilets had occupancy sensors so that lights weren't left on when the rooms were unoccupied. The hotel was using biodegradable toilet paper and ISO14001 accredited eco-friendly cleaning products. The Bingham have selected Empire as the laundry company used, who aim to reduce their carbon footprint through reduction of transportation, laundry management and water recycling. Guests are offered the option of reducing the frequency of refreshing towels and linen depending on the duration of their stay. Aerated taps have been fitted throughout as well as dual flush slim line toilets. A water filtration system is used to offer still and sparkling water served in reusable Bingham glass bottles in the hotel and restaurant. Likewise non-packaged biscuits baked in house are served in rooms. Sustainable Bingham pens and bags are used by staff and guests. The pens are made from recycled materials and are compostable. The bags are manufactured from sustainable cotton hemp.

The Adviser was able to help the Bingham further this good work by identifying other areas to help the business step up its sustainability as well as make continuous cost savings.

The Adviser recommended replacing the high energy consuming halogen down-lighters with low energy alternative LED bulbs, which last around 50 times longer. Work is currently underway to replace 534 lamps internally and externally, including dimmable lamps and candelabra. This will save the hotel around £15,294 per year, with the costs paying themselves back within four months.



The Bingham adheres to the CIBSE hotel heating guidelines to avoid over heating rooms and vacant rooms are not heated. The guest rooms have double glazed windows and loft insulation will shortly be fitted. There is no need for artificial cooling as good use is made of natural ventilation.

The Bingham have reduced their waste by switching to a paperless accounting system with paper supplier invoices reduced by 75%. Food waste is sent for composting and the amount produced is reduced by adjusting stock levels, offering doggy bags, reviewing portion sizes and ingredients. Cooking oil is converted into biofuel. This has reduced the Bingham's food waste to lower than the average restaurant and they are continuing to lower this further. Overall the Bingham aim to reduce their waste by 2.4tonnes annually. A full range of materials are segregated for recycling. As these are compacted on site transportation is minimised.

Food produce is sourced locally, seasonally and ethically where possible. £64k has been saved by buying seasonally. Separate vegetarian menus are offered and menus are not overloaded with meat, dairy products or eggs. A healthy range of herbs, fruit and vegetables are grown onsite. Organic and Fairtrade wine is selected.

The Bingham operates a cycle to work scheme and has made Pashley bicycles for guests to use.

Watering the gardens was also looked at as a priority, as the Bingham was spending huge amounts of money using mains water to water the garden – as well as wasting many litres of drinking water. The Greening Business Adviser suggesting buying an inexpensive rainwater harvesting kit, to collect water from the hotel roof. This should save around £500 in water and waste water charges.

The Adviser also gave suggestions about other changes the hotel might like to make in future – like using electronic keys to ensure lights and electrical appliances aren't left on in rooms, and installing radiator reflective panels to maximise heating efficiency.

Erick Kervaon the General Manager of the Bingham Hotel said:

'The Greening Business Programme has really helped us progress our green credentials. The Bingham aspires to be an eco-friendly hotel and with this support we have been able to reduce our running costs as well.'

The Greening Business Advisor was extremely helpful, knowledgeable and resourceful. I would definitely recommend other business to go through the support and the advice provided by the scheme."

Staff at the Bingham Hotel were congratulated by the Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Pamela Fleming. The business was presented with the Council's 'Advanced' Go Green Award. Staff at the Bingham are inspired to continue making savings and have set ambitious targets to further reduce environmental impacts. Their next projects will be to increase loft insulation, further reduce waste, and harvest rainwater for the garden.

