



Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum

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Sustainable Development



We're introducing sustainability initiatives - big and small - across the site!



Living Well Project

Through the Living Well project we ran a series of workshops through 2017 and 2018 which included sharing skills in foraging, composting, and woodland management as well as hosting a repair cafe. We successfully achieved the project's goal: enabling people across Herefordshire to come together and develop skills to live well through healthy living and eating and through developing a sustainable lifestyle.

h.Energy

Queenswood has been one of the main venues of the annual Herefordshire festival of sustainability: 'h.energy' since 2016 hosting talks, workshops and stalls.

As part of h.Energy, New Leaf Sustainable Development has also organised an annual Fun Run jointly supporting the site and Hope Spring (a charity helping developing communities in Africa to access safe drinking water).

Reducing single-use plastic

Drinks bottles are one the most common types of plastic waste. Around a million bottles are sold per minute and approximately 10 million tonnes of plastic currently ends up in the oceans each year. We have installed a wter bottle filler in the foyer outside the Visitor Centre so you don't have to go thirsty!



Inside the gift shop is a new range of eco-friendly products made from recycled materials and encouraging sustainable living.

Solar



We've teamed up with local firm Caplor Energy to install solar panels to generate green energy. Gareth Williams, MD at Caplor energy says: "we are very proud to have supported numerous local community based projects over the years. Queenswood project is hugely inspiring and such an asset to the county, we are very pleased to be working with the team on their renewable journey."

We also have a solar thermal hot water system on the back of the Old Tannery building which houses the Visitor Centre and this heats the water for the washbasins in the loos and in the upstairs office.

Recycling

Reduce, reuse, recycle! Make sure you pop your rubbish in the right slot in our new recycling bin when you visit.

We have also become a drop-off station for the Walkers' crisp packet recycling scheme; find the box outside the Visitor Centre.



Other Projects

- There is now an electric vehicle charging point in the staff car park for volunteers and staff to use.
- In 2018 we hosted a Carbon Trust workshop for businesses wanting to reduce their energy use and we have worked with the Carbon Trust, undertaking their energy audit and inspiring us to implement energy saving initiatives on site wherever possible.
- In the toilets we have replaced the faulty hand driers with Dyson air-blade driers which have a low energy use and have installed percussion taps, which will help reduce water use on site.
- We use an energy supplier who supplies energy from 100% renewables.

Our Vision

Our vision for Queenswood and Bodenham Lake is that the sites will increasingly showcase a range of both conservation and sustainability initiatives in practice.

The work of New Leaf on the two sites will be informed by the best in sustainability practice. We aim to develop buildings, energy generation, food outlets, travel links and use of water and waste in such a way that it exemplifies innovation - inspiring visitors to the sites about sustainable lifestyle choices. In particular, we aim to:

- Develop the site's buildings as exemplars of energy efficiency & renewable energy generation
- Develop the unique natural settings of Queenswood and Bodenham Lake as beautiful centres of experiential learning.
- Promote a localised food economy
- Create an education & visitors' centre at Queenswood, which will offer a range of revolving exhibitions and a growing variety of short courses and other educational initiatives
- Build on the popularity of Queenswood - working in partnership with others to develop Herefordshire as a green tourist destination and one of the sustainable development centres of the UK
- Create a sense of ownership, mutual responsibility and social cohesion around the sites – and around the sustainability principles that they will increasingly exemplify.

Sustainability Policy



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Queenswood: the green heart of Herefordshire A partnership between Herefordshire Wildlife Trust & New Leaf Sustainable Development Ltd

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