Kernock Cottages Cornwall

Our Sustainability Values Statement

At Kernock Cottages, we believe that tourism should enrich both people and place. As a family-run holiday cottage business set within a 22-acre Cornish countryside estate, we are committed to operating in a way that protects the environment, supports local communities and provides a high-quality experience for our guests.

Sustainability is embedded throughout our business. We aim to continually reduce our environmental impact, enhance biodiversity, support the local economy and encourage responsible visitor behaviour. Through long-term investment, responsible management and continuous improvement, we seek to demonstrate that sustainable tourism can be both environmentally beneficial and commercially successful.

- **We care** about our community, our guests, and our planet.
- **We understand** the need to protect our natural environment and limit the day-to-day impact of our business.
- **We aim to follow and champion** good sustainability practices, reduce the environmental impacts of our activities, and give something back to our community and the environment.

Our Sustainability Policy

We will uphold sustainability practices by:

- Ensuring we comply with all relevant environmental regulations and legislation.
- Reducing our consumption of resources including energy, water, and other raw materials, and ensuring the efficient use of the resources we do consume.
- Ensuring consideration is given to the environmental, social, and ethical impacts of the goods and services we buy.
- Working with our suppliers to reduce the impact of our supply chain and to encourage them to improve their sustainable and environmental practices.

- Managing waste generated from our business in line with the waste hierarchy; by avoiding waste in the first place, then giving priority to minimising, reusing, recycling, recovery of waste, and finally ensuring the safe disposal of waste.

- Regularly reviewing our practices with the aim of continually improving the impact of our business activities on the environment, local community, and wider society.

- Measuring and taking action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our business activities.

- Supporting social and environmental projects and initiatives within our community or in wider society.

Climate Action and Carbon Reduction

We are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy across our operations.

We will:

- Operate and maintain our renewable energy systems, including our biomass district heating network and solar PV installation.
- Improve energy efficiency through further investment in LED lighting, efficient appliances and energy monitoring.
- Encourage lower-carbon travel through the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities.
- Continue to develop robust records and measurement systems to calculate, monitor and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Use carbon footprint data to inform future sustainability investments and priorities.

Water Stewardship

We recognise water as a valuable natural resource and are committed to its responsible use.

We will:

- Monitor water consumption across the estate.
- Maintain our private borehole water supply and wastewater treatment systems to high environmental standards.

- Encourage guests to use water responsibly.
- Seek opportunities to improve water efficiency throughout our operations.

Waste Reduction and Circular Economy

We are committed to preventing waste wherever possible and reducing our reliance on single-use products.

We will:

- Prioritise reusable, refillable and low-waste alternatives.
- Work with waste management providers that maximise recycling and recovery and minimise landfill disposal.
- Continue to identify opportunities to reduce plastic consumption.
- Support innovative circular economy initiatives such as our dog waste wormery.

Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Land Management

We recognise that thriving ecosystems are essential to a sustainable future and are committed to enhancing biodiversity across our estate.

We will:

- Manage our 22-acre estate to protect, conserve and enhance wildlife habitats.
- Support farmland birds, pollinators and native wildlife through appropriate stewardship measures.
- Maintain and enhance areas dedicated to biodiversity, including wildlife-friendly planting schemes and habitat areas.
- Adopt responsible and considered planting practices, favouring species that support local biodiversity and ecological resilience.
- Consider the environmental impact of all land management decisions and seek opportunities to contribute positively to nature recovery.
- Encourage guests to enjoy and appreciate the natural environment responsibly.

Sustainable Purchasing

We aim to use our purchasing decisions to support both environmental sustainability and the local economy.

We will:

- Prioritise local suppliers wherever practical.
- Seek environmentally responsible products and services.
- Consider lifecycle impacts, energy efficiency and waste generation when purchasing equipment and consumables.
- Work with suppliers whose values align with our sustainability objectives.
- Review our guest toiletries and seek opportunities to introduce high-quality Cornish-produced, environmentally responsible alternatives.

Supporting Local Communities

We recognise the importance of a thriving local economy and community.

We will:

- Continue to promote local businesses, attractions and experiences to our guests.
- Support Cornish producers through our purchasing decisions wherever possible.
- Contribute to the long-term sustainability of Cornwall's visitor economy through responsible tourism practices.
- Encourage visitors to explore the local area respectfully and support independent businesses.

Guest Engagement and Awareness

We believe sustainability should be visible, practical and accessible.

We will:

- Communicate our sustainability initiatives to guests.
- Encourage responsible behaviours during their stay.
- Share information about local nature, conservation and sustainable tourism opportunities.
- Inspire visitors to adopt sustainable practices in their everyday lives.

Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

We are committed to continual improvement and will regularly review our sustainability performance, objectives and policies.

Over the coming years, key areas of focus will include:

- Further development of carbon footprint measurement and reporting.
- Review and improvement of guest toiletries to identify sustainable Cornish alternatives.
- Ongoing investment in renewable energy and resource efficiency.
- Continued enhancement of biodiversity, habitat management and nature recovery across the estate.
- Monitoring progress against sustainability objectives and identifying new opportunities for improvement.

Responsibility

Responsibility for this policy rests with the owners and management of Kernock Cottages. Sustainability considerations will be integrated into business planning, purchasing decisions, estate management and future investment decisions.

Through this policy, Kernock Cottages commits to protecting Cornwall's natural environment, supporting local communities and delivering a sustainable holiday experience for current and future generations.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to evaluate its continued relevance and to monitor our progress.

Signed	Louise Orton
Date	25 October 2026
Review	October 2027