

YHA IDWAL COTTAGE REFURBISHMENT

Contact

Jeroen Paul Verbeek

YHA Idwal Cottage

Nant Ffrancon

Bethesda

Bangor

LL57 3LZ

Tel: 01248 600225

E-mail: idwal@yha.org.uk

Website: www.yha.org.uk

Idwal Cottage in the Nant Ffrancon is a YHA hostel which was in need of renovation. The YHA decided to create a model 'green' youth hostel, which could then be replicated throughout the YHA network and beyond.

The project has been a unique opportunity to raise awareness about sustainability and what it can offer in terms of both the YHA building and its usage in a new age of green sustainable tourism.

As an eco-hostel, Idwal Cottage's aim is to protect the environment in numerous ways. Apart from reducing the building's ecological footprint or impact by using renewable energy, solar panels have been installed on the roof. The panels act as a secondary source of power, the most beneficial use being solar water heating. Wherever possible, energy saving devices such as heat recovery ventilation units, water-saving devices on taps, low energy lighting and light sensors have been installed.

Where possible, local contractors have used locally sourced building materials including sheep's wool insulating material, reclaimed timber and slate. Following this refurbishment, the centre aims to increase overnight stays from five to eight thousand a year, which will further boost the local economy.

"We happen to engage our increased customer base in environmental and sustainable issues, providing an enjoyable, comfortable and educational stay."

Final words: Opened in 1931, Idwal Cottage is England and Wales' oldest youth hostel – the project tries to connect the cottage's past with a sustainable future.

Status of organisation: Voluntary

Area: Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda