

## CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY

### *Contact*

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Situated in Mid Wales at Machynlleth, CAT is Europe's leading eco-centre: its staff have a long history of living and working with sustainable technologies and of sharing information with others. Its aim is to inspire, inform and enable society to move towards a sustainable future. Its main subject areas are renewable energy, energy efficiency, environmental building, water and waste treatment and organic growing.

The Centre generates its own electricity, has its own water supply, treats its own sewage, uses organic farming methods and promotes sustainable business practices. It provides a free information service to the general public by phone, e-mail, post or in person, but has managed to develop a financially sustainable enterprise with a successful world-wide consultancy service. Income is also generated from a number of other quality services including the visitor centre, shop, publications, courses and mail order.

As well as being one of the prime visitor attractions in the area, it is a venue for educational visits and tours – a resource for local people and schools. The Centre has also developed considerable expertise in providing specialist residential training courses in such subjects as renewable energy.

At a local level the organisation:

- Is one of the largest employers in the area
- Uses local goods and services where possible
- Brings visitors into the area through its visitor centre and courses
- Has been involved in various projects over the years such as the compost donor scheme – run with the local day care centre
- Offers free entry to local (SY19/SY20 postcode) residents.

*Status of organisation:* Registered charity  
*Area:* National/international