

Sustainability Champions



Inside of yurt



Eco cleaning products



Campden Yurts

Campden Yurts

Jane Corner, Owner

A family-run glamping site, Campden Yurts opened in 2017 with the aim of providing an idyllic escape that 'does little harm'. Now a certified Green Tourism business, owner Jane Corner, tells us how they minimise their impact on the environment.

In a self-catering business, there's a lot of washing and cleaning, how do you manage this sustainably?

"I have always used eco cleaning products in the yurts, bathrooms and kitchen. I also now make some of my own toilet cleaners, surface cleaners and other products out of natural ingredients that don't harm the environment such as vinegar, surgical spirit and citric acid. I use a natural descaler for the kettle and shower heads rather than commercial ones that can harm aquatic life.

"I do a lot of laundry! To mitigate our environmental impact, we invested in a highly efficient, large drum machine and line dry all washing. Throughout I have used plant-based, biodegradable laundry detergent and no softeners. As a trial at home I have made detergent myself out of conkers, which have natural soap in them, just to trial how this works. I have a good supply from our Horse Chestnut tree which grows on site." The kids thought I was mad but it did a good job of cleaning our own clothes. I don't use this for the glamping site though, sticking with trusted non-bio, eco brands.

Do you use much electricity?

"The yurts themselves do not have electricity,

but we provide lighting via solar power. Solar panels charge portable batteries that we connect to the lights to illuminate our yurts. Outdoor areas are also lit by decorative solar lights reducing our reliance on conventional energy sources and minimising our carbon footprint. The lighting is minimal and low key so as not to cause problems for the bats that fly about feeding here at night.

"Our bathrooms and kitchen room do have electricity, which we source from a supplier committed to 100% renewable energy. We use energy-efficient LED lighting and skylights to reduce our reliance on electricity, contributing to a more sustainable experience for our guests."

Tell us about your nature-related activities

"Every year, we expand our green footprint with willow structures, bee and butterfly-friendly plants, and rainwater harvesting. Our commitment to planting not only enhances the beauty of our glamping site but also contributes to the well-being of our winged friends.

"We collect rainwater for watering our plants, reducing our water consumption and promoting responsible water use. All watering is done using watering cans (and muscle) to reduce the water waste that hose pipes would cause."

How have you identified changes that you can make?

"I went through the roadmap process with EnviroRental to look at every part of the business to see what sustainable choices and changes could be made to reduce our carbon footprint. This includes checking my energy supplier is green, my website is green hosted and so on."

Sometimes it's the 'little details' that make a big difference

"Absolutely! I use re-useable decorations, such as 'Happy Birthday' or 'Congratulations' bunting rather than single-use plastics or balloons when guests are staying for a special occasion.

"We've upcycled firepits for planters, buy second hand furniture and upcycle that for the yurts and we have also built our own pizza oven using clay from our ground, local sand, straw and stone."

"We discourage guests from bringing plastic bottles of water by letting them know in advance that all our water is suitable for drinking and by providing metal drinking flasks and glass carafes. We also provide a good supply of re-useable lidded storage containers for use in the fridges – reducing

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Heating the yurt



View from above



Jane Corner



Outdoor cooking



Bathrooms

Campden Yurts

continued

the need for cling film/tin foil. Small things can make a difference too!"

What are you hoping to do next?

"We're re-doing our Green Tourism assessment; we've been bronze level for many years, and I have increased what I do a lot since then. I think it is good to revisit the choices we have made and to acknowledge our progress. Going through the process again makes me aware of other changes I could make and also how to share the message of sustainability with a wider audience, not just my guests but social media followers too."

"I also plan to create information posters about ways to go green at home to encourage guests to make changes too."

Do you get many comments or questions from customers?

"I get questions about the unbleached toilet paper and kitchen paper we use and I explain

why we use this instead of bleached products – the bleaching process uses chemicals which are harmful to the environment.

"We also get asked about how we built our pizza oven, a lot, as guests love to know about him (he's called Bob)."

Do you have any advice to businesses who are starting on their journey?

"Any time you have a decision to make ask yourself 'is there a more environmentally friendly way of doing this?'"

"Go to EnviroRental, a sustainability website for self-catering businesses with free resources, and go through their process, as it really helps to identify where good choices can be made."

What quick wins do you suggest?

"Don't try to do everything all at once, unless you have a dedicated team for it. Decide what changes will be quick and easy to make

– maybe start with something like cleaning products and make the switch. Can you buy in bulk and decant or even make your own?"

"Gauge how wasteful you are and see what you can do to reduce it – for example, don't use the small bottle of shampoo for each guest, have larger ones and refill."

"Have a plan of where you would like to be in 3, 6, 12 months so you keep on track and maybe have a dedicated member of staff who keeps the business accountable."

Is there anything you'd wish you'd known at the start?

"To talk about sustainability more to guests and other businesses, to share ideas and inspiration around sustainability. Also, to look at 'hidden' choices such as website hosting and electricity supply, to make green choices there too."

campdenyurts.co.uk