

# Supporting our environment and local community

At Lochend Pods we believe we are stewards, and are committed to minimising the impact of our activities on the environment, as well as doing our part to support our local community.

## Energy

- We have a system of solar panels and batteries which we use to power the site.
- When we have excess solar power we export it to the National Grid.
- In the event of there being insufficient solar energy stored our electricity tariff is a green tariff.
- We provide EV car charging for our guests (at 7kW) free of charge.

## Water and waste

- Our water comes from less than a mile away, being taken from the river Lael and a nearby aquifer. It is potable, being provided by Scottish Water. It is also much nicer than any mineral water you can buy.
- Our waste water and sewage go to a septic tank where the bacteria and enzymes do their work.
- Because our septic tank outflow is into the Loch we regularly inspect our tank to make sure all is working as it should.
- We are mindful of what we put down the toilets and sinks to keep the septic tank working at its most efficient. We would ask guests to do likewise.
- We hold to the principles of reduce, recycle, reuse and would ask our guests to do likewise while staying with us.

## Cleaning products

- All towels and bedlinen are washed in eco-friendly products not tested on animals.
- All the cleaning materials for the pods are eco-friendly products not tested on animals.
- All the shower products are eco-friendly and produced in the Scottish highlands.
- To reduce plastic use we refill all our containers. Our cleaning materials are refilled from Ullapool Unpacked C.I.C., which is a social enterprise set up to help our community produce less waste. Our toiletries are provided by a local company in the village (The Captain's Cabin).
- We ask all guests who bring their own toiletries and/or cleaning materials to ensure they are marked as safe for the use of septic tanks.

## Local environment

- We are passionate about the rewilding of Scotland and are playing our (small) part. We are part-way through a multi-year project to increase the biodiversity of our land.
- We have so far planted over 1,500 saplings in the field behind the pods with many more to go. The trees are a mixture of local, native species.
- We are planning a series of hedgerows around the pods and the rest of the site to encourage more local wildlife.
- We are planning a wild-flower meadow to attract more pollinators.
- We are planning to install beehives and produce local honey.
- We are planning to create a fruit orchard and to plant vegetables to make available locals produce.