



Cote How Environmental Policy

Ninety-five percent of our business is generated from destination weddings i.e. clients from outside of Cumbria and we are proud to be contributing to the local economy and sustainability of Lake District National Park.

At Cote How Lake District Weddings we aim to be ethically conscious and considerate to the environment in the way we operate the business. As a destination wedding venue, we aim to offset the carbon footprint of those that travel to us through measures that we are more able to control, such as operating with a local supplier and local produce bias and having a no car policy at the venue. While minimising our own footprint we also encourage our clients and their guest to follow suit wherever possible.

As a wedding venue we have a responsibility to work in the most environmentally friendly manner, to continually strive to improve our carbon footprint and the impact we have on our environment. Some of the environmental benefits of choosing Cote How as a wedding venue are:

- **Readymade infrastructure:** We have a house with multiple options for your ceremony as well as outdoor space and a barn. We discourage the use of marquees or tepees, catering vans, porta-loos etc. as they all carry their own carbon footprint.
- **Restrict Capacity:** While we can accommodate more guests, we restrict our numbers to a maximum of 50. In this way not only do we improve the comfort of our guests, but it discourages the invitation of those less connected to the wedding couple with the consequent reduction in footprint.
- **Wedding Ready:** Cote How is a ready dressed venue using low energy lighting and natural coppiced materials. There is no need to purchase disposable decorations that have a maximum useful value of less than 24 hours. This also reduces waste.

We take a range of steps in the way we operate the business, many of which also apply to our clients and guests.

Waste Management

At Cote How we operate a hierarchical policy i.e. Avoid, Minimise, Re-use, Recycle, Dispose:

Avoid

- Limited use of paper such as brochures. We encourage an e-download of our brochure, communicate electronically in all respects, use fabric napkins as opposed to disposable paper, etc.
- Use of refillable soaps and toiletries to avoid purchase of plastic containers
- Re-useable wedding décor; Cote How is ready decorated with natural materials such as coppiced branches and natural hessian bunting
- Use steel washable cutlery rather than disposable plastics
- Natural decorations from around the garden
- Only natural confetti is permitted at Cote How.

Minimise

- We promote local business that produce digestible favours i.e. limited carbon footprint and minimal waste
- We use local suppliers where possible and promote local supplies to our clients such as wedding photographers
- LED lighting is used throughout the venue to keep energy consumption to a minimum. Wedding lighting is only used when a wedding is in progress
- In-house entertainment. We provide high quality Sonos music throughout the venue, An entertainer is not required.

Re-Use

- Eco friendly local wild flowers from our own meadow when in season for venue décor
- Almost all green material produced from the extensive grounds of Cote How is composted to produce compost material to fertilise the plants. All other green material is recycled via local council facilities.
- Rainwater is collected for watering plants
- Many potted plants are provided as venue décor by Cote How. There is no need for additional flowers.
- All crockery is provided by Cote How and is entirely re-useable.

Recycling

- We use recycled paper, packaging and envelopes
- We recycle all recyclable plastics including packaging and carrier bags, glass, aluminium, steel, paper and cardboard
- All food waste is composted and re-used in the garden
- We use only compostable bin liners in the bedrooms.

Dispose

- Our fortnightly waste disposal equates to one standard domestic bin. We continually strive to minimise this.

Clients

During the planning stage we encourage our clients to think responsibly in relation to their wedding in areas such as:

- Use of e-Invites
- Pot plants for table centres
- Choosing suppliers local to the venue for flowers, photography, favours etc.
- Whether they would like to plant a tree in our grounds

Conservation of Energy

- We only heat occupied rooms as and when required and the central heating is supplemented with open fires in the main living areas downstairs.
- We replaced the old antiquated gas boiler with two new energy efficient condensing boilers in 2017, which has reduced our gas consumption by a staggering 30%.
- Every radiator is fitted with a thermostatic valve.
- We have increased all of the loft insulation to 250mm.
- We have a rolling program to upgrade insulation to include doors and windows.
- Our kettles are small and will boil a single cup.
- We encourage all occupants to switch off lights when not required.
- All our light bulbs are low energy long life.
- We are continually monitoring the energy consumption of all appliances in the house.
- New appliances must be at least A rated.
- Our curtains are all fully lined to minimise heat loss.

Conservation of Water and water pollution

- We encourage the use of electric showers opposed to baths.
- Our toilets are fitted with cistern Sava-flush bags.
- We require guests to re-use their towels for the duration of their stay.
- We only use eco-friendly dishwasher tablets, washing powders and cleaning products.
- We do not use fabric conditioners.
- Each bathroom has refillable dispensers for hand soap, shower gel and bath essence – all of which are made from 100% natural ingredients (no SLS's) and are made locally.

Sourcing

- All of our food is locally sourced and seasonal. We have all food and groceries delivered to us on a regular basis, mostly from within Cumbria.
- We adjust our menus seasonally to take account of locally available fresh produce

- We bulk buy to reduce packaging and deliveries.
- All office paper is made from re-cycled materials and is 100% recyclable.
- We work hard to promote and support a variety of local businesses helping to support their business.
- We encourage our clients to use local products and services.

Sustainable Transport

- We operate a no vehicle policy at Cote How. This encourages guests to use local public transport. It also encourages clients to organise minibus collection of guests that frequently stay in the local area. This minimises journeys, eases traffic congestion and reduces carbon output.

Our Living Space

- Cote How has a very relaxing and quiet atmosphere and we encourage our guests keep noise to a minimum at all times.
- The whole house is TV free.
- We have a strict no smoking policy throughout the house and grounds.

Gardening

- We manage the gardens at Cote How ourselves and use organic and recycled fertilisers throughout. We use natural pest control and use plants that are in keeping with the local climate and soil conditions. Plants are grown at Cote How or purchased from local suppliers.
- We encourage our clients to mark the occasion of their wedding by planting a locally sourced native tree in the grounds of Cote How.

Awards to date:

Jan 2007 Considerate Hoteliers – Highly Commended (top 3)

July 2007 GTBS – Gold (96%)

Sep 2007 Soil Association license for Restaurant & Catering and Processing

Jan 2008 Considerate Hoteliers – Runner Up (sustainable food)

Feb 2008 T&CP Ambassador Business Award – Demonstrating best practice in Sustainable Tourism.

April 2008 Four star grading with Visit Britain

May 2008 winner of Cumbria Tourism's ***Sustainable Tourism Award***.

Now to go forward to the regional North West finals.

July 2009 Won a Gold award with Visit Britain - Now Four star gold

Dec 2009 Won a breakfast award with Enjoy England for our outstanding breakfasts

Oct 2010 GTBS Gold Award

Apr 2011 Winners of the GTBS Gold Stars Award – Having already achieved Top 1% in the UK on Sustainability

November 2013 GTBS Retained Gold Award