

# NORTH PENNINES



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Langdon Beck Youth Hostel



c. NPAP/Shane Harris

The highest Youth Hostel in the country, at Langdon Beck provides excellent accommodation for visitors wanting to discover some of our rarest habitats and species. Whilst its location in upper Teesdale within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) make Langdon Beck worth a visit, (it is a welcome stop on the Pennine Way National Trail) it is for the innovative direction taken to develop the environmental credentials of the business that sets it apart.

In 2006, Langdon Beck Youth Hostel was awarded a European Commission Ecolabel Award, an accolade given to the best providers of green tourism accommodation. The award reflects the exhaustive efforts that have been made to make the youth hostel as sustainable as possible. Progress made includes:

***50% reduction in total energy consumption***  
***75% reduction in CO2 emissions***  
***50% of waste recycled***

In achieving this, the hostel has amongst other things installed a 2.5 kilowatt wind turbine, photovoltaic panels, solar hot water systems, recycled paper fuel logs and wastewater reed bed treatment. In addition, much work is undertaken to engage guests through direct information, such as appliance energy consumption labels on switches. This is all set against an activities programme that includes bird watching, meadow and moorland flora studies, traditional craft workshops and environmental practice.

As with many developments of this type, both the success of Langdon Beck as a sustainable accommodation business and an exemplar of renewable energy use is as a result of a forward thinking governing organisation and the dedication and enthusiasm of the hostel staff, in particular Ewan Boyd the hostel manager. The North Pennines AONB Partnership recognises the contribution that Langdon Beck Youth Hostel makes to the area and has been fortunate to work with its staff on a wide range of projects.

## **Case Study - From roof top to reed bed**

A key recent project at Langdon Beck Youth Hostel has been the tackling of resource consumption issues via the refurbishing of the toilet and shower facilities with low usage systems, including heat exchange ventilation systems and movement sensitive lighting. One of the main water conservation elements of the scheme has been the introduction of a rainwater harvesting system to provide grey water for toilet flushing. Sustainable Development Fund administered by the North Pennines AONB Partnership contributed 39% of the cost of the scheme, which it is estimated will reduce consumption of mains water by 50%.