



Hotel proving holiday industry can go green

By JULIA BENNETT

BLACKPOOL hoteliers are being encouraged to lead the way in eco-tourism.

From recycling food waste, to using energy saving light bulbs and solar power panels, hoteliers can adopt plenty of schemes to go green.

Owners of the award-winning Number One South Beach are among those leading the green revolution and have invested £55,000 in new energy saving technologies.

The hotel, on Harrowside West, South Shore, has had solar power panels installed along with a new condensing boiler and low energy lights.

Owners Claire and Mark Smith and Janet and Graham Oxley say they take their environmental responsibilities very seriously.

Mrs Smith said: "We try to balance our carbon footprint. We've invested in new technologies, but should get our money back in three years



ECO-FRIENDLY HOTEL: Claire Smith switches on the new solar energy boiler at the Number One hotel

which is quite a short time.

"The solar panels on the roof are amazing. They can heat water on their own without any assistance to 60 degrees, warm enough to have a wash. They're great."

Not a drop of water is wasted in the hotel with sensory and spray taps which reduce

flow and an electronic key card which ensures electrical items in each room are not left on.

The three floor hotel also boasts zone heating which means only the rooms being used are heated.

The new technology means energy efficiency in the hotel

has improved by 37 per cent.

But there are other ways of helping the environment without having to invest in expensive technology.

Mrs Smith added: "Guests order from a breakfast menu the night before so I know what to get ready which means less food is wasted.

"We have small kettles so less energy is used heating less water and thermostatic controls on radiators help to save heat. We always recycle paper and bottles too."

Tourism bodies in Blackpool are offering support to hoteliers to drive eco-tourism forward in the resort.

StayBlackpool is running a free Resource Efficiency Workshop for its members.

Jacqui Morris, company secretary, said: "We're encouraging hoteliers to be eco-friendly with a workshop where they can get advice on going green. We look at bottom line cost savings like reducing the amount of water used and recycling waste."

And VisitBritain, has launched a new programme, Green Start, to help hotels towards becoming sustainable businesses.

The StayBlackpool workshop will take place on Wednesday June 25. For details, call (01253) 621891.

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