

ECOSMART CERTIFICATION

Example Criteria

On the ECOSmart portal, each property is presented with a bespoke set of questions tailored to the specific facilities and features it offers. These questions are carefully crafted to assess the property's sustainability practices across various categories, such as energy efficiency, waste management, water conservation, and community engagement.

Each question is strategically aligned with one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that the property's efforts contribute to broader global sustainability objectives. This approach allows properties to receive relevant, actionable feedback and highlights their alignment with internationally recognised sustainability standards.

Award certification scoring

The ECOsmart scoring system is designed to assess environmental and sustainability efforts across multiple categories. To earn a Bronze certification a business must achieve an average score of 35% across all categories, reflecting a foundational commitment to sustainable practices. A Silver certification requires higher performance of 50%, while Gold is awarded to properties that achieve an average score of 70% or higher, demonstrating strong and consistent efforts.

The highest level, Platinum, is reserved for businesses that achieve an average score of 85% or more across all categories and successfully undergo a site inspection to validate their practices, ensuring the highest standards of sustainability are met.

Certification Standards

The ECOsmart certification helps hospitality businesses achieve and maintain high standards of sustainability. By focusing on comprehensive sustainability areas, employing a tailored assessment process, and adhering to strict scoring criteria, properties can be recognized as leaders in environmental and social responsibility. This not only enhances the property's reputation but also contributes positively to broader sustainability goals.

UN Sustainable Goals

The ECOsmart certification by Greengage comprehensively addresses several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its focused sustainability strategies across various operational aspects of hospitality management. Here's a summary of how it aligns with specific SDGs:

1.Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7):

By implementing solar panels and other renewable energy sources on-site, and by using energy providers that supply renewable electricity and gas, ECOsmart promotes increased use of clean and green energy.

The installation of energy-efficient solutions such as LED lighting and Energy Management Systems (EMS) further supports this goal by reducing energy consumption and enhancing energy efficiency.

2.Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8):

ECOsmart's initiatives such as staff training in energy efficiency and sustainability practices contribute to promoting sustained economic growth and decent work for all. The certification encourages properties to become accredited living wage employers, ensuring fair wages for their employees.

3.Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9):

Through the adoption of innovative technologies such as energy-efficient glazing, variable speed drives for swimming pools, and advanced water heating systems, ECOsmart fosters innovation and builds resilient infrastructure.

UN Sustainable Goals

4. Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11):

By implementing systems that minimize light pollution, efficiently use water, and enhance energy management, ECOsmart contributes to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

5. Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12):

ECOsmart promotes responsible consumption and production patterns through waste reduction strategies, comprehensive recycling programs, and the elimination of single-use plastics.

6. Climate Action (SDG 13):

The certification's focus on reducing energy consumption, switching to renewable energy, and measuring the carbon footprint of hotel operations directly supports efforts to combat climate change and its impacts.

7. Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15):

Initiatives like using environmentally friendly cleaning products and avoiding products that harm biodiversity (e.g., palm oil) help preserve life below water and on land. Additionally, promoting local flora and implementing on-site wildlife conservation areas contribute to protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

8. Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17):

By engaging with various stakeholders, including local communities, environmental groups, and sustainable vendors, ECOsmart fosters a collaborative approach to achieving the broader objectives of the SDGs.

Through these strategic initiatives, ECOsmart ensures that the properties it certifies contribute positively towards achieving multiple SDGs, thereby promoting a sustainable and responsible hospitality industry.

Key components of our assessment

ECOsmart examines sustainability practice and process in five key areas, as follows:

01

Building infrastructure, energy and water conservation

Through implementing energy efficiency measures and choosing renewable energy supply you can, reduce CO2 emissions and contribute towards reducing the effects of climate change – as well as potentially save costs. Options include using a green energy supplier and investing in energy saving measures – as well as focussing on sustainable building infrastructure features such as energy efficient glazing.

Millions of litres of water are consumed – and wasted – within the hospitality industry. Water is an increasingly precious commodity and we need to conserve supplies. By reducing water use there are significant cost saving opportunities too.

02

Waste management, recycling, and plastics

Deploying best practice waste management and recycling is a crucial element of environmental stewardship and also a valuable way of reducing costs.

An estimated average 29% of food in hotels is wasted. Limit the amount of waste generated onsite and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by recycling. Measures should include eliminating single use plastics, embedding recycling processes and using eco-friendly cleaning products.

03

Rooms, consumables, & facilities management

Adjusting the guest and meeting room environment and facilities to incorporate eco-friendly elements that do not detract from the guest / delegate experience. Such as re-use of linen and towels, eco-friendly toiletries and specific green meeting and events services.

04

Sustainable food & beverage management

Serving guests with healthy, locally sourced and sustainable food options is an important principle. As is minimisation of food waste. According to the most recent report by the charity “Waste and Resources Action Programme” (WRAP), the UK produced around 9.5 million tonnes of food waste in 2018. It is estimated that 70% of this total was intended to be consumed by people, with 30% classified as “inedible parts”. Broken down by sector, this waste was comprised of 1.1 million tonnes (12%) from hospitality and food services (HaFS)..

05

Corporate & social responsibility

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social. In this section, we examine measures that demonstrate social accountability, including how staff are managed.

Continuous Compliance and Updates

We regularly update our certification criteria to remain compliant with the latest GSTC standards and Travalyst requirements along with the EU Green claims directive. Our process includes annual reviews and revisions based on the evolving best practices and stakeholder feedback.



01

Energy, water conservation and building infrastructure

Focusing on the Footprint

Implementing energy efficiency measures and choosing renewable energy sources are key strategies for reducing CO2 emissions, combatting climate change and potentially lowering costs. This includes a wide range of initiatives:

- Implementing solar panels and additional renewable energy generation facilities on-site to harness natural energy sources, thereby reducing reliance on non-renewable power.
- Switching to green energy providers that supply electricity and gas derived entirely from renewable sources, ensuring all energy consumption is sustainable.
- Upgrading all spotlighting to LED technology and integrating motion-sensitive lighting systems to significantly reduce energy usage across the property.
- Introducing key card energy management systems to control room utilities, complemented by an optional service for guests to decline daily room cleaning, promoting water and energy conservation.
- Installing a comprehensive Energy Management System (EMS) that is reviewed regularly for efficiency, in conjunction with a building management system tailored to optimise energy use throughout the facility.
- Incorporating energy-efficient solutions such as variable speed drives (VSD) for swimming pool operations and high-performance, energy-saving glazing in windows and glass structures.
- Conducting detailed energy audits periodically to identify areas where energy consumption can be reduced, coupled with ongoing monitoring to ensure consistent energy use management.
- Facilitating electric vehicle (EV) usage by providing charging stations, along with the installation of external, motion-activated floodlighting to enhance security while minimizing light pollution and energy wastage.
- Equipping taps with advanced systems like Zip or Qooker, which provide instant boiling or chilled water, reducing energy waste, alongside implementing heating systems that utilize sustainable energy sources such as geothermal, air, or water heat pumps.
- Systematically measuring and recording the carbon footprint associated with each occupied room daily and tracking carbon emissions for meeting spaces on an hourly basis, enabling targeted strategies for carbon reduction and promoting transparency in sustainability efforts.

CRITERIA

01

Energy, water conservation and building infrastructure

CRITERIA

Focusing on the Footprint

Water conservation is also critical:

- **Water Audit:** Conducting a water audit within the last two years to assess water usage and efficiency.
- **Water Management Systems:** installing water softeners, dual flush toilets, tap/shower restrictor fittings, and urinals with PIR-triggered flushing or waterless urinals to reduce water consumption.
- **Energy-Saving Laundry System:** Implementing an energy-saving laundry system or partnering with a laundry contractor with eco-credentials to reduce both water and energy consumption.
- **Rainwater Harvesting and Grey Water Recycling:** Collecting rainwater for irrigation and recovering grey water for reuse to maximise water efficiency.
- **Water-Saving Measures:** implementing motion-sensitive systems in public/staff toilets and ensuring accessible facilities for all.
- **Guest Communication:** Actively communicating with guests about how they can help reduce water and energy use during their stay.

Key initiatives in building infrastructure include:

- **BREEAM/LEED Certification:** Achieving these certifications demonstrates a property's commitment to meeting high standards in environmental performance and sustainable building practices.
- **Sustainable Construction Materials:** Utilising materials that are sustainable or recycled to reduce the environmental impact of building construction.
- **Thermal Enhancement of Walls and Roof:** Enhancing the insulation properties of walls and roofs to improve energy efficiency and reduce heating and cooling demands.
- **Energy Efficient Glazing:** Installing windows that are designed to minimise the loss of heated or cooled air, contributing to lower energy consumption.
- **Green Walls and Roofs:** Incorporating living green walls and roofs to improve air quality, insulation, and building aesthetics, while also supporting biodiversity.

01

Energy, water conservation and building infrastructure

Focusing on the Footprint

- Inclusive Facilities: Ensuring gender-neutral toilets and adequate disabled access to toilets, entrances, and main facilities to promote inclusivity.
- Emergency Health Facilities: Equipping the property with defibrillators available for emergencies, enhancing safety for guests and safety.
- Natural Decorations: Using real plants and flowers from the country of origin to enhance indoor air quality and provide a natural aesthetic that promotes wellbeing.

CRITERIA

02

Waste, recycling, and plastics

Reduce, Re-Use & Recycle

Effective waste management and recycling are fundamental to environmental stewardship and cost reduction. Our certification encourages a range of practices aimed at minimising waste and eliminating single-use plastics:

- Eliminating plastic water bottles and replacing single-use plastic toiletry bottles with bulk dispensers or solid alternatives.
- Recycling part-used soaps, composting garden waste, and providing waste recycling bins in bedrooms.
- Donating excess equipment and consumables to good causes and redistributing excess food through organisations like Too Good To Go.
- Installing technology like Orca Food Waste enzyme digester apparatus to process food waste and recycling used cooking oil.
- Eliminating cling film in kitchens and ensuring that kitchen oil waste is removed and recycled via grease traps.
- Recycling all food waste and achieving Zero Waste to Landfill certification.
- Recycling 100% of paper, card, glass, cans, and plastic waste while eliminating all single-use plastics.
- Participating in the TerraCycle scheme and completing a waste management review within the past two years.
- Being a member of the Sustainable Spa Association and recognised as Guardians of Grub Champions with a documented and actioned policy for reducing food waste.

Properties like 15Hatfields, an ECOsmart Platinum venue, have successfully implemented these practices, including the complete eradication of single-use plastic.

CRITERIA

03

Rooms, consumables, & facilities management

Adjusting the Environment

Our certification evaluates how eco-friendly initiatives are integrated into guest rooms and facilities, ensuring these elements enhance rather than detract from the guest experience. This includes:

GREEN MEETINGS

- Offering carbon-free team-building activities and ensuring bike racks or bike hire are available on-site.
- Providing green meeting packages with meeting menus measured for carbon footprint and using recycled materials for delegate meeting supplies.
- Using electronic or dry marker alternatives to paper flip charts and digital signage in meeting/conference areas.
- Measuring CO2 levels in meeting rooms and offering Chefs Choice or similar menu options.
- Providing electricity consumption data per event and offering dedicated meeting spaces with capabilities for fully streamed or hybrid online meetings and events.

BEDROOMS

- Dispensing shampoos and soaps in bulk or using recyclable/refillable containers.
- Providing visible signs in rooms and bathrooms offering guests the option to reuse linens and towels.
- Replacing plastic laundry bags with reusable fabric bags and using MitreEco (recycled plastic bottles) or comparable filled pillows and duvets.



03

Rooms, consumables, & facilities management

Adjusting the Environment

GYM

- Using sustainable gym flooring and mats and installing energy-producing gym equipment.

FACILITIES

- Offering public restroom and guest bathroom amenities free from parabens and petrol/mineral oil-derived ingredients, containing natural compounds.
- Providing electricity consumption data per event and offering dedicated meeting spaces with capabilities for fully streamed or hybrid online meetings and events.
- Replacing chemical cleaning products with eco-friendly preparations and ensuring no products on-site contain palm oil.
- Using toilet tissue made from recycled material or bamboo.

Wyboston Lakes, an ECOsmart Platinum venue, exemplifies these practices, offering 30 electric vehicle chargers and sustainable meeting options, which underline its commitment to reducing its environmental impact.



04

Sustainable food & beverage management

CRITERIA

Healthy, Sustainable Options

The sustainable management of food and beverages is a core component of the ECOsmart certification. This area emphasises the importance of sourcing locally, reducing waste, and offering environmentally-friendly and healthy options. Key practices include:

POLICIES

- Measuring CO2 emissions for food and beverage (F&B) purchasing to monitor and reduce carbon footprints.
- Prioritising local food suppliers and having a purchasing management plan that favours environmentally-friendly and sustainable produce.

LOCAL SUPPLIERS

- Establishing a local milk delivery or ordering service.
- Offering alcohol-free beers or spirits as well as locally produced beverages.

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS

- Stocking drinks brands or products that actively work to mitigate environmental impact.
- Providing sustainably or ethically brewed beer and eco-friendly bar snacks.
- Stocking carbon-neutral certified and/or organic wines.
- Including plant-based menu options and locally sourced beverages.
- Stocking drinks brands that use low carbon footprint bottles.

EDUCATION

- Implementing training programmes to avoid wastage, such as beer drip tray waste.

04

Sustainable food & beverage management

Healthy, Sustainable Options

REDUCE IMPACT

- Installing on-site refill stations for drinking water to reduce single-use plastics.
- Removing individual condiment sachets to reduce packaging waste.
- Implementing initiatives to reduce the number of food deliveries, further cutting down on carbon emissions.
- Including on-site grown produce in the menu.
- Serving on-site filtered drinking water.
- Ensuring no endangered or protected fish or seafood, as defined by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), are included on the guest menu.
- Offering alternatives to dairy, such as oat or almond milk.
- Providing fair-trade or ethically sourced sugar, coffee, and tea.

This comprehensive approach to sustainable food and beverage management not only supports local suppliers but also contributes significantly to reducing the property's overall environmental impact.

For instance, Friends House, an ECOsmart Platinum member, successfully incorporates fresh, locally sourced ingredients in its café, restaurant, and meeting rooms, demonstrating a commitment to both sustainability and quality.

05

Corporate and social responsibility

CRITERIA

Staff, Customers & Suppliers

Corporate and social responsibility is a fundamental pillar of the ECOsmart certification, focusing on sustainability, equity, and community engagement. We evaluate how properties incorporate these principles into their daily operations and long-term strategic goals. Key elements include:

POLICIES

- Articulating a clear environmental sustainability mission statement.
- Implementing eco benchmarking criteria for suppliers to ensure sustainable supply chains.
- Enforcing policies that encourage employee community contributions and equal opportunities, and eliminating workplace discrimination.
- Maintaining a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy and appointing a nominated staff sustainability champion or team.
- Establishing a sustainability fund and maintaining a sustainability credentials page on the property's website.
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CARBON MEASUREMENT

- Utilising Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative (HCMI) tools for assessing environmental impact.
- Maintaining a measured carbon footprint and implementing a carbon reduction plan.
- Commitment to environmental goals demonstrated by signing the Pledge to Net Zero and participating in Net Zero Carbon Events.
- Having a carbon offset scheme for clients and the venue/business itself
- Using a tracking system for monthly energy, water, and waste use, with defined green targets and KPIs.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Promoting local tours, activities, and local artists at properties to support the community and cultural engagement.
- Actively supporting the local community through various initiatives.
- Maintaining not-for-profit or charity status to underscore commitment to social and environmental causes.
- Establishing a sustainability fund

05

Corporate and social responsibility

CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION

- Achieving environmental and energy management certifications such as ISO 20121, ISO 50001, and ISO 14001.
- Being an accredited Living Wage Employer.
- Achieving recognition as a Certified B Corporation or Ecovadis

BIO DIVERSITY

- Developing on-site wildlife conservation areas or supporting off-site tree planting schemes to enhance biodiversity.
- Using a tracking system for monthly energy, water, and waste use, with defined green targets and KPIs.

EDUCATION

- Educating employees on the climate crisis and sustainable practices, and incorporating environmental KPIs into staff evaluations.
- Conducting energy efficiency staff training.
- Establishing a sustainability fund and maintaining a sustainability credentials page on the property's website.
- Achieving recognition as a Certified B Corporation or maintaining not-for-profit or charity status to underscore commitment to social and environmental causes.

These comprehensive CSR practices ensure that properties not only meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations but also actively contribute to the betterment of their local and global communities.

This integration of environmental stewardship with social equity forms the backbone of sustainable development within the hospitality industry. Such initiatives are vital for properties aiming for ECOsmart Platinum status, demonstrating a deep commitment to not just meeting but exceeding sustainability standards in every aspect of operation.

Recommendations report

Following certification this report serves as a tailored action plan for your organisation, offering practical tips and recommendations to enhance your sustainability efforts. You have the flexibility to utilise the report within your organization as an actionable roadmap or work through the tips and recommendations provided on the portal. As you implement each recommendation, remember to mark them as completed in the report section of the portal. Doing so not only helps track your progress but also contributes to increasing your overall ECOsmart score.

Tips & Recommendations

[Download Action List](#)

Energy and Water Conservation Questions

Operational efficiency



A Building Management System or BMS (otherwise known as a Building Energy Management System - BEMS) controls and monitors a building's mechanical and electrical equipment such as air handling, heating and cooling, lighting, power and security systems and is an essential tool in making sure that plant operates efficiently.

Next Steps

You can use the Greengage Directory to find a registered M&E contractor to quote and install a BMS System. - <https://www.greengage.solutions/green-directory/> Greengage recognised green partner - eEnergy - can provide a cost effective quote please contact your account manager for further information

[Mark as Complete](#)

You can improve your ECOsmart badge level within a year



SUSTAINABLE MINDS

Collaborate with **ECOmap**

ECOsmart accredited properties are automatically added to the ECOmap venue searching tool. Greengage partners who book accommodation and meetings have access too. Our vision is to create a community - connecting organisations and promoting their sustainable stories and achievement.

Search


Gold ECOsmart

New Venue

The Oak Tree of Peover

Back Lane Lower Peover,
Knutsford WA16 9SG

Bronze ECOsmart




New Venue

Victoria Warehouse

★★★★☆ 4.2

Trafford Wharf Road Stretford,
Manchester M17 1AB


Silver ECOsmart



New Venue

Chapel House Estate

Thorne Hill Minster,
Ramstage CT12 5DS



More Filters

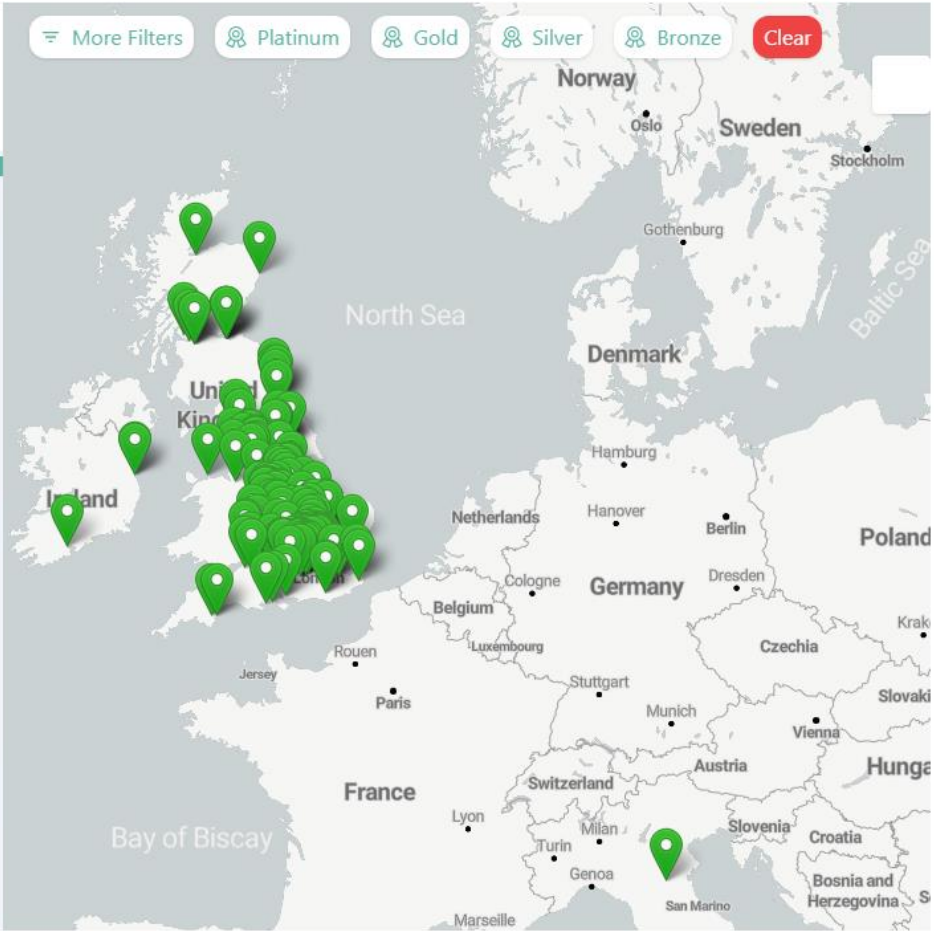
Platinum

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Clear



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[ECOsmart Directory \(myecosmart.co.uk\)](https://myecosmart.co.uk)



GREENGAGE SUPPLIERS

In response to our members requests we have an online directory of carefully selected partners that provide ethical and green products to the travel, events, and accommodation sectors.

Information can be accessed within the resources section of the My ECOsmart portal.





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by *Greengage*

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