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The Environmental Charter

The Federation seeks to encourage awareness and good practice among its member Associations, so enabling the Youth Hostel movement to play its part in environmental conservation. In order to enable execution of this objective, the Federation has laid down its objectives in the following seven issues.



**Hostelling
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1. Energy Conservation

Associations will periodically review their use of energy because energy production is a major reason for depletion of natural resources, global warming, acid rain and climate change. Attempts will be made to use as little energy as possible. IYHF will seek to use renewable energy and where possible will encourage projects to this end.

2. Recycling

Associations will commit themselves to the use of recycled or part recycled products wherever economically feasible. Segregation of waste for such items as paper, plastic, batteries, bottles and cans demonstrates, in a very visible manner, to young people and others using youth hostels, that care is being taken on the use of our planet's resources. Measures will be taken to ensure water quality and minimize wastage and leakage.

3. Pollution

Associations will use reasonable means, including assistance from local authorities and other agencies, to minimize pollution. Disposal of waste, including litter, will be efficient and environmentally acceptable.

4. Transport

Associations will encourage use of public transport where this is practicable. Alternatively, car sharing will be encouraged. Full information on public transport will be supplied at all youth hostels. Car borne hostellers will be encouraged to discover the surrounding area by public transport, bicycle or on foot. Long term parking will be provided at hostels, where possible, to encourage this.

5. Nature

Associations will be supportive of the formation of nature reserves, national parks, and other specially designated areas to provide both wildlife habitats and for public recreation. Associations will wherever practical reserve part of the hostel grounds for a "wild garden" where diverse plants or weeds specific for a particular species of wildlife could be grown.

6. Environmental Education

Associations will consider making specific provision for environmental education at suitable youth hostels. Youth hostels can be suitable centres for locating environmental education material such as Teachers' Packs, Project/Work Cards, leaflets and posters.

7. Consumption

Associations will take into account environmental factors in purchasing. There are a whole range of products which claim to be environmentally friendly; some have more significance than others depending on the local circumstances. Associations should keep abreast of research in these areas in what is a rapidly changing scene.

Wherever possible use: recycled paper (displaying the recycled logo), locally grown food perhaps from the youth hostel's own garden, appropriate building materials, including local or recycled materials where this is economically viable, and minimal amounts of chemical cleaning agents to ensure good health and hygiene.

International Youth Hostel Federation

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